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APPOINTMENTS

28 pages of top jobs. SECTION 3

Tory torrent of legislation attacked

Taylor warns of frenzy in the courts

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice launched a devastating attack on the Government's entire criminal justice programme last night, warning that a torrent of ill-prepared legislation was undermining public confidence.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth said that major criminal justice legislation was threatening to become an annual event like the Budget, and he complained that a clipboard army of management consultants was adding to the pervading sense of frenzy and uncertainty in the courts.

He also spelt out his opposition to the Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentences, saying they would not work and would lead to more murders. Offenders would be deterred from pleading guilty, and there was no evidence that such a regime would achieve anything beyond "a bonanza for prison architects".

Lord Taylor's unprecedented speech reinforced the concerns of other senior judges who have attacked Michael Howard's penal policy and set the judiciary firmly on a collision course with the Government.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Lord Ackner and Lord Justice Rose have all spoken out against the sentencing policy to be detailed in a White Paper this spring. But it was the Lord Chief Justice's speech that was awaited with the greatest anxiety in Whitehall.

Mr Howard declined to comment last night as a Home



Howard: not joining in a public row

Office source made clear that he was not in the business of engaging in a public row with members of the judiciary. Nevertheless, officials released a detailed rebuttal of much of Lord Taylor's speech and the source said: "He is entitled to his views. The Government believes it has a very strong case."

Launching his attack in a lecture at King's College, London, Lord Taylor said: "We have had more Criminal Justice Acts in the past six years than in the preceding sixty. Sentencing policy has in four years swung from one extreme to the other and frequent swings of penal policy eat away at public confidence in the criminal law."

Rules of law should not be subject to arbitrary change by the powers that be or to the vagaries of fashion. "It is not just the volume of legislation that has become alarming, with each successive Criminal Justice Act treading on the last

one's heels," he continued. "It is also the haste with which each is prepared."

"Significant and complex reforms are introduced by way of amendment halfway through the progress of a Bill through Parliament. As a result, inconsistencies and lacunae have to be cured in the Court of Appeal or even by yet more legislation."

Lord Taylor also castigated the ethos of management consultancy taking over the criminal justice system, saying: "In addition to this hectic catalogue of legislative activity, there has been unleashed on the courts an invading army equipped with clipboards conducting management reviews, feasibility projects and pilot studies, all of which add to the pervading sense of frenzy and uncertainty. If you walk into a Crown Court, you are as likely to meet a management consultant as a judge."

Turning to Mr Howard's sentencing plans, Lord Taylor listed four reasons why he firmly opposed minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug dealers and life terms for rapists and violent criminals who reoffend.

First, they would fetter judges' discretion to fit the sentence to the crime.

Second, they would thwart the present system of sentence discounts for guilty pleas.

Third, they would lead to more murders. A repeat rapist, faced with an automatic life sentence, might think it less risky to kill the only witness to his crime, he said.

Finally, he disagreed with



Lord Taylor: "More Criminal Justice Acts in six years than in preceding sixty"

the proposals "because they will not work". After forty years of passing judgment on criminals, he had concluded that what deterred them was the likelihood of detection.

He did, however, support Mr Howard's proposal for "honesty" in sentencing, so that time served in jail was more closely in line with the

sentences imposed. That would mean that shorter terms would be imposed, "but I would rather see a sentence of 18 months than a sentence of 18 months meaning only 18 months as at present."

The Lord Chief Justice's lecture was delivered after a day of speculation and con-

cern at the Home Office, which promptly issued a statement defending the Government's policy. "These proposals have a simple aim: to protect the public from persistent and dangerous criminals," it said. "These proposals will send a clear message to the criminal: if you commit the crime, you will do the time."

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, will tell MPs that a Labour government will not allow any more of them to become fundholders. But in a clear signal that Labour is determined not to alienate thousands of GPs, Ms Harman will indicate that existing fundholders will retain their rights to buy hospital care until Labour sets up an alternative framework. At present GP fundholders control about 30 per cent of the local budget for hospital care, and can refer patients where they choose.

The first stage is not to take away their budget. We are not going to confiscate their bud-

Blair draws back from abolishing GP fundholding

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is dropping plans for the immediate scrapping of GP fundholding if it comes to power in the latest policy shift to be pushed through by Tony Blair.

Instead it is to allow existing fundholders to continue to manage their own budgets until the introduction of alternative powers for all doctors to determine healthcare for their patients.

Eventually all GPs will be expected to work more closely with other practices and with health authorities in joint commissioning teams to arrange care for their patients.

The slowing down of changes to the structure of fundholding has been prompted by Mr Blair's determination to avoid the charge that he wants to tear up Tory reforms at a stroke.

It could be three years before any fundholding is abolished, according to senior Labour sources. The Labour leadership is determined to ensure minimum disruption for GPs or patients during the transition.

Tomorrow Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, will tell MPs that a Labour government will not allow any more of them to become fundholders. But in a clear signal that Labour is determined not to alienate thousands of GPs, Ms Harman will indicate that existing fundholders will retain their rights to buy hospital care until Labour sets up an alternative framework. At present GP fundholders control about 30 per cent of the local budget for hospital care, and can refer patients where they choose.

The first stage is not to take away their budget. We are not going to confiscate their bud-

gets on the first morning," said a source close to Ms Harman. "The first stage is to get them talking together with all GPs to look at ways to ensure a smooth transition to GP commissioning."

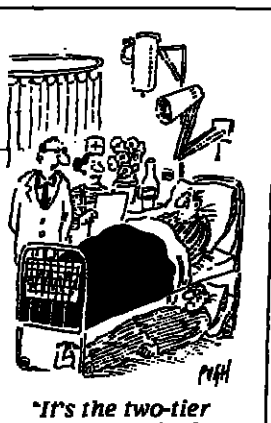
On assuming power Labour would consult GPs and health authorities on the best way of setting up the new commissioning system, based on several models already operating.

Addressing the National Association of Commissioning GPs in Nottingham, Ms Harman will outline a new framework for primary care in which all GPs in one area —

fundholders or not — group together to commission care in agreement with the local health authority. She will launch the "biggest consultation" exercise yet, to persuade GPs to join together and co-operate with health authorities. Last night Ms Harman wrote to all Labour MPs and prospective Labour candidates with briefing papers

Continued on page 2, col 3

Donnell guideline, page 4



"It's the two-tier system everybody's talking about"

Britain may buy US spy planes

The Ministry of Defence is considering a proposal to spend up to £750 million on American U2 spy planes.

The deal would provide between six and twelve of the surveillance aircraft to monitor war zones in which British troops are deployed. The U2 has a 103ft wingspan and a maximum flying altitude of 90,000 ft. Page 2

Nunn takes over at the National

Trevor Nunn has been confirmed as the new director of the Royal National Theatre. He will take over from Richard Eyre in October 1997. Nunn, who is 56, was head of the Royal Shakespeare Company for 18 years. He had been the favourite to take over at the National. Page 7

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Jay family anger at 'shambling tramp' obituary of their father

By JOANNA BAILE

A DAUGHTER of the former Labour Cabinet minister, Douglas Jay, who died yesterday, complained just hours after his death over an "offensive" obituary.

The article, issued by the Press Association to news organisations around the country, described Lord Jay as a "shambling figure" once mistaken for a tramp when abroad on an official trip. It also recalled a story that one of his suits was accidentally lost to a tramp in Oxford. It described him as "right with money" and added: "his oratory was as mediocre and uninspiring as his appearance."

Minutes after the article appeared, Catherine Boyd, one of Lord Jay's twin daughters, made an angry telephone call to PA after reading it while working at the BBC. The agency immediately sent a memo to all newspapers that the obituary, by its veteran



Lord Jay obituary made daughter Catherine "flip"

political commentator Chris Moncrieff, had caused offence to the Jay family.

Mrs Boyd, 50, a BBC assistant producer, married to Stewart Boyd, QC, said last night: "When I read the article... I just flipped. It was a very emotional response, but I just could not believe it — it was horrible. It was entirely negative and went on and on about his appearance which was



irrelevant. Of course, he was shabby — clothes were not important to him — but to go on about it so much was stupid. There was nothing about him as a human being. He cared deeply about people and did so much for so many. He was full of warmth and humour, and was loved by many ordinary people whom he had helped.

"And to call him a mediocre

speaker was rather insulting. He never claimed to be a great orator, but I always thought he was quite an effective speaker." Mrs Boyd rang Mr Moncrieff to complain. She added: "I told him he must be a very depressed man and I felt deeply sorry for him."

PA's executive editor Mike Parry, who spoke to Mrs Boyd, said: "It was not our intent to be malicious. I honestly believe that parts of it were warm and affectionate. It was written by one of the most experienced political reporters of his generation, who never had a run-in with Lord Jay." Mrs Boyd rang her brother, Peter Jay, the BBC's economics editor who is in Germany, to tell him about the obituary. She said: "I read the piece out and he said it was outrageous, but that we should not get diverted by it and that what mattered is that we remembered our father as he was."

Obituary, page 21

Victorious Dole claims nomination

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT DOLE yesterday claimed the Republican presidential nomination after defeating his opponents in all eight of Tuesday's primaries.

The jubilant Senate leader declared his priority after two months of party feuding was to unify Republicans, close ranks and "face the real political target — Bill Clinton".

Mr Dole now has 276 of the 996 delegates he needs for the nomination — 207 more than his nearest rival — and huge momentum.

Lamar Alexander, the Tennessee governor, and Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana both abandoned their presidential bids and urged their supporters to back Mr Dole. Pat Buchanan, the populist broadcaster, and Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, will fight on.

Dole victories, page 14

Typist rescued after 21 hours stuck in a lift

By BILL PROST

A WOMAN trapped alone in a small lift in an empty office block for 21 hours was last night recovering after being freed by firemen.

The 28-year-old typist's imprisonment began at 11.00am on Tuesday after what is thought to have been an electrical fault halted the lift just short

of the ground floor. She was to remain stuck in the cramped metal cabin calling for help until 8.30 yesterday morning when rescuers managed to force the door open.

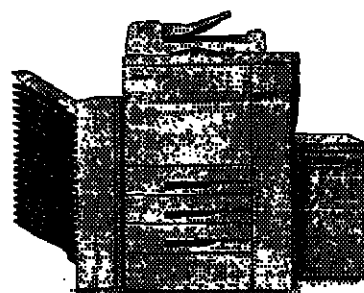
The young woman, who was "dehydrated and very stressed" when she was released, was working alone at the small office of an American software company in the otherwise

unoccupied small building in the City of London. A colleague who would normally have been there was on holiday.

The block, leased and maintained by a nearby branch of the Nationwide building society, is in a quiet courtyard and her cries went unheard. Similarly, the lift's alarm was only audible within the empty building.

She was finally discovered when her distraught husband went to the office yesterday morning. He opened a letter box and heard her faint cries.

The dubious distinction of longest recorded incarceration in a lift goes to an East Sussex man trapped for 62 hours in a Brighton office block 10 years ago. Graham Coates has used the stairs ever since.



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PEP objects and TM/1

Hogg refuses to fish for compliments

Mr Hogg arrived at the Commons yesterday impatient to hear how Douglas Hogg would protect British fishermen from the might of post-imperial Spain. Many hoped that, like some latter-day Drake, their small but plucky Minister of Agriculture would singe the King of Spain's beard. In the event the Commons sang the Minister of Agriculture's beard.

And quite an event it was. It has become smart to say we neither care nor notice what happens in the Chamber, but those who did received an early signal that Her Majesty's Government (as Tory Euro-sceptics love to call it) may be heading for between a

rock and a hard place. The rock analogy came from Patrick Nicholson (C, Teignbridge). This usually loyal backbencher became worryingly poetic in his appeal to Mr Hogg to heed, not Brussels, but "the people of this kingdom". Tory backbenchers in "this kingdom" mode, en masse, present a disturbing sight.

John Butcher (C, Coventry SW) was no less epic in his metaphor. This was "one of those watershed moments". Ministers had "started off like bulldogs", but if the bureaucrats "converted them into poodles" then watch out! The people of this kingdom would "take clippers to their whistles".

Mr Hogg, looking uncom-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

fortable, all but crossed his legs. "Dare to be popular!" cried Butcher. Being popular is not a possibility which has ever occurred to Douglas Hogg; he would probably think it vulgar. Now he faced a choice of popularity or having his whistles clipped. He looked even more uncomfortable, by turns blustering, and insulting his Labour critics.

"Is it not generally true," asked the Liberal Democrats' Paul Tyler, "that when an advocate resorts to bluster and insult, it usually means he's

got a weak case?" Tyler mislook his man, here. Long observation of Hogg performances teaches us that Mr Hogg blusters and insults even when he has a very good case. He always blusters and insults. So we had no way of knowing whether his Euro-defiance yesterday was real.

He will have left the Chamber after MP kept up to tell him so. When Labour's Peter Shore (Bethnal Green & Stepney) can get the better part of the Tory benches roaring in

his support while whips wince, ministers must take notice.

A number of the more volatile Tories wanted the Government to "denounce", or "renounce", the treaty obligations which bind Britain to the Common Fisheries Policy. Labour's Dennis Skinner knew what Hogg should "tell those tinpot people in the Common Market". Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton, SW) prophesied "we will one day disobey" EU law. Iain Duncan Smith (C, Chingford) wanted a defiant one-clause Act of Parliament.

But many of these were the usual suspects. If I were Mr Hogg, what would have unnerved me more were

backbench loyalists pledging undying support for the fight to the last ditch which they understood him to have promised. Sir Hector Monro (C, Dumfries) was ready for battle. David Harris (C, St Ives) knew Hogg would "see this through" and judged it "a real turning point". He foresaw "a tremendous fight". John Townend, Tory Finance Committee Chairman, expected Hogg "to be completely ruthless". It would be these voices which, were I the Minister, would wake me screaming in the night.

Brussels has shown itself to be a hard place. The Commons yesterday could hardly wait to prove itself a rock. I fear for Mr Hogg's whistles.

Aircraft sought for airborne stand-off surveillance system

MoD may buy U2 spy planes in £750m deal

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Defence Ministry is considering a proposal to spend up to £750 million on American U2 spy planes.

The aircraft, a symbol of the Cold War with its 103ft wingspan and maximum flying altitude of about 90,000ft, is being studied as a possible platform for an airborne stand-off radar system called Astor.

The Ministry of Defence is considering a deal that would provide between six and twelve of the high-altitude surveillance aircraft to monitor war zones in which British troops are deployed. The ministry has been deliberating for the past 16 years on what type of aircraft to use for the Astor system.

The Army has a requirement for a stand-off surveillance system that can provide a comprehensive picture of a conflict area.

Other aircraft considered for the role include the Islander, Canberra and Nimrod. Although Nimrod was favoured, it is understood that the Royal Air Force considers its maximum operating altitude to be too low.

Last year the all-party Commons defence committee criticised the MoD in a report over the delay in resolving which platform to use for carrying the Astor system.

One defence source said that up to six U2Rs — an advanced version of the aircraft flown by

the American pilot Gary Powers who was shot down over the Soviet Union in May 1960 — were being considered as a possible option, involving the American manufacturer Lockheed. Another source claimed that the order could be for as many as 12 of the aircraft.

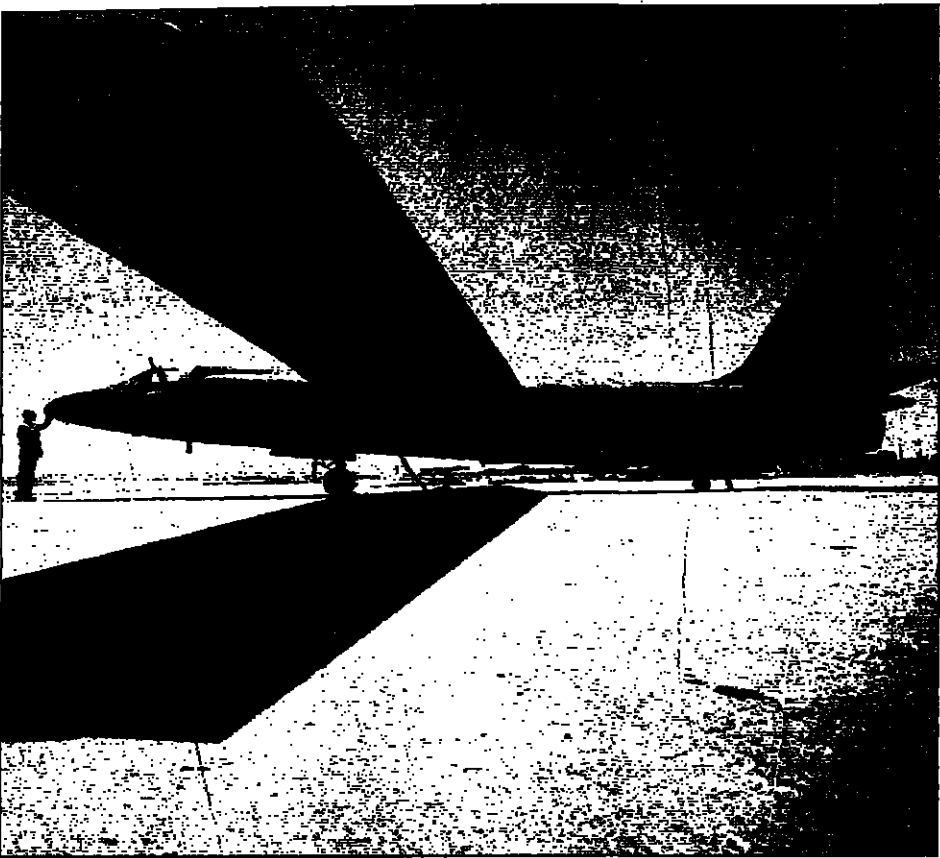
Lockheed has built about 60 U2s since the 1950s. Although the U2 was mothballed, it was taken back into service and until last year the United States Air Force regularly stationed the black-painted spy planes at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Three U2Rs from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force base in California were sent to Fairford in April last year to carry out aerial reconnaissance over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Last August one of the U2Rs crashed just seconds after taking off from RAF Fairford. Captain David Hawkins, the pilot, was killed. The detachment of U2Rs is now operating from France.

Lockheed yesterday declined to make any comment on the interest shown by Britain in buying U2s. A spokesman at Lockheed's headquarters in the United States referred all questions to the MoD.

A spokeswoman for the MoD said she could trace no one who knew of any scheme to buy U2s. However, defence sources said that the purchase



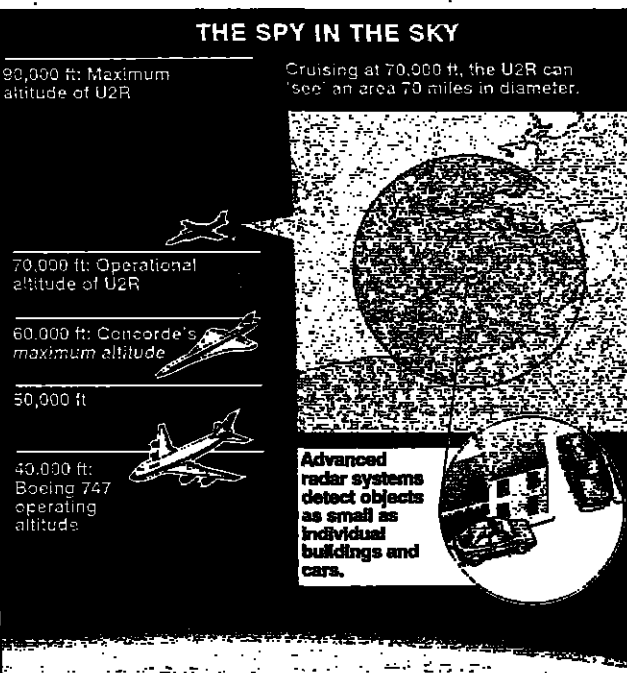
The U2 spy plane, symbol of the Cold War, has a range of up to 3,000 miles

of U2Rs was one of several options but they did not expect a decision for some time.

According to a book published in 1989, two RAF pilots flew the U2 over Russia in the 1950s. The shooting down of Gary Powers ended American overflights of the Soviet Union.

Another U2 was shot down over Cuba in 1962 and three or four more were lost on CIA missions over China, according to Christopher Pocock, author of a book on the history of the U2. Many of the early U2s also crashed because they were so tricky to fly.

The U2 is 63ft long, flies at a maximum speed of 430mph and has a range of 3,000 miles. Twelve U2s were based in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, providing daily intelligence on movements of Iraqi troops and armoured columns.



Adams talks of another 25 years' warfare

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS warned the Government yesterday that the IRA was prepared for "another 25 years of war" if Britain failed to convene unconditional all-party talks.

In some of his harshest comments since the ceasefire was called off, Mr Adams quoted an IRA leader as saying: "We sued for peace, the British wanted war. If that's what they want we will give them another 25 years of war."

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, described Mr Adams' comments as unhelpful. He said that last week's Anglo-Irish communiqué had created a momentum. He added: "We have set a fixed date for June 10 for all-party talks and that must register on people's minds as actually moving the agenda forward."

Mr Adams qualified his tough language, which came in an article in the New York newspaper *Irish Voice*, when he said the IRA was prepared to restore its ceasefire. But he added that the IRA would only "embrace a real effort to end the conflict through inclusive negotiations without preconditions".

Sinn Féin and the IRA believe that Britain and Ireland set out three conditions at last week's Anglo-Irish summit: the plan to hold elections in Northern Ireland to all-party talks; the ban by both Governments on ministerial contact with Sinn Féin until the IRA restores its ceasefire; and the Anglo-Irish insistence that Sinn Féin must address the decommissioning of IRA arms at the start of all-party talks.

Mr Adams made clear that these conditions were delaying a new IRA ceasefire because there was an "absence of a viable alternative" to the armed campaign. Mr Adams' article was his most detailed account of the events leading to the ceasefire in 1994 and its eventual collapse. Mr Adams said the IRA called its ceasefire because of Britain's promise in the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 that it would hold serious talks within three months of a ceasefire. Republicans believed that this would be underpinned by a unique consensus among Irish Americans, the Irish Government and the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

The Sinn Féin president blamed the collapse of the ceasefire on Britain's refusal to hold all-party talks until the IRA began to disarm.

The Docklands lorry bombers made a dummy run three weeks before the real attack, police said yesterday. The date of the reconnaissance trip suggests that the IRA's seven-man Army Council was making plans to end the ceasefire well in advance of the publication of the Mitchell report on the peace process on January 24.

Widow wins right to NHS care at home

A 76-year-old widow with Alzheimer's disease has won the right to be cared for in her own home at a cost to the State of £15,000 a year. The Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester wanted to move Kathleen Richardson into a residential home where she would have had to pay for her own care. She would have been forced to sell her home in order to meet the cost.

The case has wide-reaching implications for the community care service, which relies heavily on the ability of people to pay their way in residential and nursing homes. Jonathan Montgomery, a senior law lecturer at Southampton University, said there would be serious consequences for the NHS if others followed suit.

Polar ice thinning

Scientists fear that the North Pole ice cap could be thinning rapidly after discovering that water temperatures under the Arctic are rising at an alarming rate. Findings from a joint American and Canadian expedition to the region show temperatures have risen by as much as a quarter since the 1950s. Dr Peter Wadhams, of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, said: "We do not know if this is a manifestation of global warming or part of a natural cycle."

Soldier's beau gesture

A former soldier facing an assault charge has escaped British justice by joining the French Foreign Legion. James Gow, 30, failed to appear at Stirling Sheriff Court yesterday but sent the Sheriff a postcard of the Moulin Rouge, claiming he had enlisted as a legionnaire. His lawyer said he could not contact Mr Gow because legionnaires were forbidden to disclose their whereabouts but he thought he would be away for about five years.

Bicycle diplomacy

Stephen Logan, a member of the British Embassy in Kuwait, plans to cycle the 393 miles of the Gulf state's border with Saudi Arabia and Iraq as a "reminder of Kuwait's sovereignty" and to raise money for children's charities. He is due to start today and will take about six days. The embassy said that Mr Logan had worked on Anglo-Kuwaiti defence and security policies for five years, but did not specify his position.

Brady press defeat

The Moors murderer Ian Brady yesterday lost his High Court challenge to a Press Complaints Commission ruling that photographs of him in a newspaper were not an invasion of privacy. Mr Justice Joffe refused an application by Brady, 59, to challenge a decision that the pictures, taken at Ashworth Hospital, Merseyside, and published in *The Sun* under the headline "Well-fed face of evil child murderer", were in the public interest.

Sex case teacher quits

A music teacher has resigned more than a month after a judge dismissed charges that she had sexually assaulted teenage boys. Valerie Short was accused of abusing three members of a youth orchestra during the mid-1980s. The judge ruled that she could not prepare a proper defence so long after the events. Ms Short, 41, resigned before facing a disciplinary hearing at The John Roan School, southeast London. Charges did not relate to her work there.

Lotus open to offers

The carmaker Lotus went up for sale yesterday for the third time in a decade. After being owned by the Americans and then the Italians, speculation was growing last night that a business regarded among the elite of British brand names would be bought by a Far Eastern manufacturer. Executives at the sports car business and its high-technology engineering arm, based at Hethel in Norfolk, were negotiating with several companies.

The Albert Hall gig



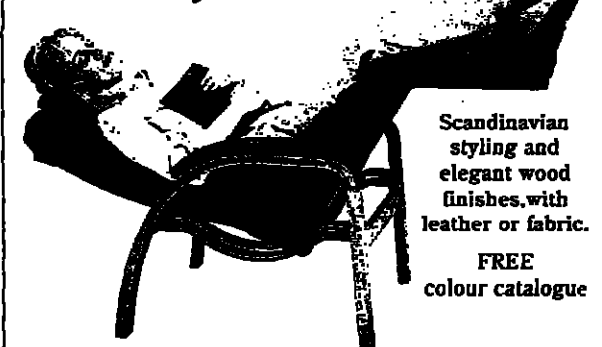
Phil Beer and Steve Knightley, above, a West Country guitar duo, have hired the Albert Hall for £22,000. The two, known as Show of Hands, decided to celebrate their fifth anniversary together in style when they spotted that the 5,000-seat venue was not booked on March 24, between concerts by Bruce Springsteen and Donna Summer.

Times colour award

The *Times* has won the 1996 MAN Roland newspaper industry award for the quality of its printing. The judges said they were impressed with the quality and consistency in colour printing on presses at the News International plant in Wapping, east London, each producing between 150,000 and 300,000 copies a night. Nightly quality audits and the investment of £3.5 million in a new colour registration system were credited with *The Times* consistently producing colour printing of unrivalled quality.

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GPs' budgets

Continued from page 1
setting out the party's new thinking. "Partnership between GPs and health authorities requires trust," says the paper. "In some areas that still needs to be developed. Labour believes that there should be no return to the situation where health authorities are commissioning care with no input from GPs," it says.

"We do not want to impose a single solution from the centre. Different models will be appropriate for different areas. If they fit NHS objectives and are shown to work they will be encouraged."

In a further move to appease GPs, Ms Harman will also make clear that under a Labour government they would be given statutory rights to approve any contracts which are made between health authorities and hospitals. All GPs would also be given back referral rights so they could send patients outside the local authority if they wished.

Under the new arrangements, three-year rolling contracts for hospital services

would have to be drawn up jointly by health authorities and GPs. They would not be valid unless signed by the family doctors.

Ms Harman will also pledge that all GPs will have access to information about hospital services and that a Labour government would ensure "fair funding" for all GPs. In addition GPs would have the same access to hospitals for their patients. At present only about a third of Britain's 33,000 GPs are fundholders, which enables them to buy hospital care for their patients. But from next month this will rise to nearly 50 per cent of GPs covering nearly half the population.

The move to soften Labour's opposition to GP fundholding comes after similar shifts in education over the last 18 months. Since Mr Blair became leader, the party has softened opposition to grant-maintained schools and has called for more streaming within the comprehensive system.

Donnell guideline, page 4

Major may face fresh Euro revolt

By NICHOLAS WOOD

PROMINENT Tory Euro-sceptics said privately yesterday that the Government could face a Commons revolt over its Europe White Paper unless it gives a firm commitment to stand up to Brussels.

On the eve of today's Cabinet meeting to finalise publication of the document early next week, nearly 60 right-wingers crowded into the Commons chamber to voice their anger over European interference in domestic affairs and to demand a tougher defence of national interests.

The show of strength was provoked by the Government's latest reverse at the hands of the European Court of Justice over the rights of Spanish fishermen to register their boats in the UK. One veteran of the Maastricht revolt predicted "trouble" unless the Government responded to backbench concerns.

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Zulu boy ordered home faces a rude awakening

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

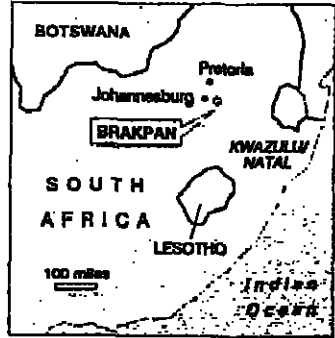
A ZULU boy aged ten who has been ordered to return to South Africa after four years in Britain will find it hard to communicate with his mother as he has forgotten his native language and she does not speak English.

The child will experience something of a culture shock when he moves to a township outside Brakpan, a former mining town 20 miles east of Johannesburg. When he begins his new life next month, he will share a single room with his parents and a baby sister.

The boy has been living in Maida Vale, west London, with a white South African woman who

now has British citizenship. The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is widowed and has three daughters. The boy was made a ward of court in 1994 when the South African woman gave notice of her intention to adopt him. She had become attached to the child while she employed his natural mother as a housekeeper in Johannesburg. He had been brought up by her since he was 18 months old.

The father has said that the child's British "mother" wanted her daughters to have a brother. "She told us, 'That son must not ever go far from us as my



daughters do not have a brother," he said. The father said he and his wife had initially agreed for their son to go to Britain because they thought he would get a good

education. He said: "My wife had no idea where England was or how far away it was but we thought we would be closing the door for the child if we refused him this chance of education."

The boy was taken to London in March 1992 by his mother's Afrikaans-speaking former employer amid fears that the civil unrest would deprive the boy of a decent education. His parents had agreed to let him go provided that they would be allowed to visit him and the adoptive mother ensured he maintained his South African links. Despite her assistance in helping the boy to speak Zulu he lost the ability to speak his mother

tongue, the only language in which his biological mother is proficient. The woman he was living with later launched a bid to adopt the boy without his parents' permission. The family countered with a successful court action financed by lawyers for human rights.

On Tuesday, the Court of Appeal ordered that the child be returned to his natural mother and homeland, and he is expected to return during the Easter school holidays. The child, who is a ward of court, will begin the summer term at a new school.

The boy's new home is a brick-built sidehouse, set on a patch of bare earth with a single door and

window. The township was neglected during the apartheid years. During the late 1980s it was embroiled in unrest at the height of violent opposition to the white minority government.

Many township homes do not have running water or electricity. Schools are often in a state of disrepair with broken windows and desks, and lack rudimentary teaching aids.

The boy's father, who is a driving instructor, claims to have a savings account and unit trusts for the child. He believes his son will soon become reacquainted to his Zulu language and culture.

At the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Ward, sitting with Lord

Justice Neill, said that the boy faced a danger of being taken away from his British family against his will. "I am under no illusions whatever about the harm that return to South Africa will cause," he said.

"It is not just the uncertainty about the stability of his parents' marriage, and their relationship, nor about their housing conditions, nor economic security, nor personal safety."

"He will leave the comforts of Maida Vale for the comparative discomfort of Brakpan."

The natural mother was helped in her case by the Black Sash human rights group in South Africa.

'Possessed' patient killed two relatives after release

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MAN suffering from paranoid schizophrenia killed his mother and half-brother five weeks after leaving a mental hospital. As Anthony Smith, 25, began unlimited detention at Rampton secure hospital yesterday, an independent inquiry began into his care.

Smith, who said he was possessed by demons, stabbed his mother, Gwendoline, 43 times with an 11-inch knife before finally killing her with an iron bar. His brother David, 11, who walked in during the attack, was stabbed 24 times. Smith then washed the blood from his clothes, walked into a nearby health centre and told the reception-

ist: "I've just killed my mother and brother." In a calm voice, he added: "It was inevitable."

A day earlier, Smith's doctor, Sarah Barrett, had sent a card arranging his next hospital visit as an outpatient. Smith, of Sandiacre, Derbyshire, admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

The facts of this case present a nightmare to those people who care for schizophrenic patients. Mr Justice Latham said at Nottingham Crown Court. "It seems to be a case where this man's release into the community will have to be looked at with great care. I hope somebody will make it their business to find the full facts and learn whatever les-

sons are necessary." Smith went into hospital voluntarily in June 1995 but discharged himself after less than a month. His stepfather, Peter Smith, 47, an accountant, voiced concern at the time but it was considered that he was safe to go home.

Peter Joyce, QC, for Smith, said: "There is no gain in elaborating on the horror of what happened that afternoon but he regrets his discharge from hospital five weeks before these events. It is clear from reports that he was a very sick young man. He was driven by delusions and hallucinations and by overpowering voices to commit these offences. He is shocked by the horror of what he did." After

the hearing, his stepfather said Smith had refused to take medication. Mr Smith said: "The doctors had the power to detain him but never did. I knew something would happen from what I learnt of the illness. There was nobody to help; it was down to me."

Jayne Zito, who founded the Zito Trust to campaign for changes in mental care after her husband, Jonathan, was killed by a released mental patient, said yesterday: "The Government has got blood on its hands for the tragic and unnecessary deaths of the Smiths."

An internal review completed by the Southern Derbyshire Mental Health Trust has said, however, that there were "no major breakdowns" in Anthony Smith's care. He had been keen to return home and the consultant felt he was ready to return to an environment in which he had lived safely for 23 years, providing he took medication regularly.

Dr Barrett, who is on maternity leave from Derby City Hospital, has not faced any disciplinary proceedings. Andy Clayton, medical director of the hospital trust, said last night: "The consultant used her clinical judgment to make what she felt at the right time was the appropriate decision. She obviously now regrets the tragic events which followed that decision a month later."



Anthony Smith, left, stabbed his mother, Gwendoline, and killed his brother David, 11, who walked in during the attack. Smith later said: "It was inevitable"



The Princess of Wales leaving the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London yesterday after her first public engagement since she made it known that she had agreed to a divorce

Rape victim who lied is jailed

A RAPE victim who accused a man she knew to be innocent was jailed yesterday for six months. Kay Franklin, 25, told police that Ian Henson had broken into her home and raped her at knifepoint. She claimed that she recognised him when a towel masking his face slipped.

Mr Henson, 22, was arrested and remanded in custody for seven weeks until DNA tests proved that he could not have been responsible. Franklin was arrested and admitted the allegation was untrue. Sybil Thomas, for the prosecution, told Warwick Crown Court.

Franklin, a mother of four, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice. Richard Griffith-Jones, representing her, said she latched on to Mr Henson's name when it was mentioned by a neighbour to whose home she ran after the rape last May.

Judge Richard Cole told Franklin: "It is accepted you were raped, but you knew full well it was not Ian Henson who raped you and you deliberately lied about that. It was a wicked thing to do."

Animal rights extremist jailed for ten years

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN ANIMAL welfare extremist who planned a nationwide fire-bombing campaign with military precision was jailed for ten years at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

David Callender, 37, described by colleagues within the hardline Animal Liberation Front as a "compassionate commander", was linked by police to bombing raids in southern England five years ago but never arrested.

As he was jailed yesterday for conspiring to commit arson, Callender, an unemployed history graduate, was told by Judge Matthews: "Any activist who plans to plant incendiary devices, whatever his motive, has got to understand that his punishment if caught is going to be severe."

Callender's bombing campaign was thwarted by a shop assistant when he placed an order for 60 tomato-shaped kitchen timers under the name of Johnson. Police kept him under surveillance and later, at a terraced "safe house" in Sparkbrook, Birmingham, uncovered enough bomb-making equipment to make

100 incendiary devices. Police also found detailed plans of targets that included the Milk Marketing Board, the Animal Health Trust at Newmarket, the Cambridge Hunt, an agricultural college in Humber-side and the British Association of Shooting. Callender also documented in a 23-page log reconnaissance visits to 16 potential target buildings.

The judge told Callender, of Waterloo, Merseyside, that he was an intelligent man with a genuine love of animals who had planned the campaign with "military thoroughness". He accepted that Callender had not intended to endanger human life.

"You are entitled to your disapproval but not to behave in a criminal way or seek to impose your views on the public. I am sure that the objective of the conspiracy was to plant incendiary devices or improvised firebombs to burn property and vehicles."

Callender, a vegan who has a girlfriend and 15-year-old son, waved to supporters in court as he was led down to

the cells. He was convicted after a five-week trial. An appeal has been lodged against his sentence.

During the trial the court was told that Callender had previous convictions for activities involving the ALF campaign against the meat trade and companies involved in animal production.

The same shop assistant at a kitchen wholesalers in north-west London who sold him the tomato-shaped timers had previously taken an order for timers from a Mr Johnson which were used in the 1991 ALF campaign.

Detective Chief Inspector Roger Simpson, who investigated the case, said: "It might be a possibility that Callender was the previous Mr Johnson who was never traced. The people responsible for that campaign were never brought to justice."

Callender, a former elected officer of the Hunt Saboteurs' Association, was the subject of news stories when he was struck with a whip by an army major at the Middleton Hunt in North Yorkshire in 1993.

Briton savaged by toothless shark

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

A BRITISH tourist was recovering yesterday after apparently being attacked by a normally harmless shark while swimming off the Great Barrier Reef.

As Jean Hotchkiss, 47, lay in hospital with bites to her arm and leg, experts were trying to discover why a huge toothless plankton-eating fish should bite a human being.

Mrs Hotchkiss, of Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, was swimming in shallow water off Heron Island resort when what is believed to be a small whale shark grabbed her arm and leg. She managed to tear herself free from the jaws of the shark and wade ashore to seek help. Mrs Hotchkiss, who was on a two-

week holiday, was flown by helicopter to hospital before being transferred by the flying doctor to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, 300 miles away.

Bob Earle, an environmental consultant, said: "Whale sharks are the largest living fish and can grow to 40 feet and live on plankton. But they do not have teeth as such. The best description of their mouth would be like rubbing your hand across Velcro."

Tom Stratton, a spokesman for Heron resort, said: "This is the first shark attack we are aware of here, and we have been associated with the island since 1970." Last year 147,600 Britons visited Queensland of whom 51 per cent went to the Great Barrier Reef.

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Hospitals told to restrict care to critically ill patients with chance of survival

Doctors criticise Dorrell's overhaul of intensive care

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL came under fire from the medical profession last night after outlining an action plan to improve intensive care units following a series of scandals involving bed shortages for critically ill children.

The Health Secretary ordered health chiefs to tighten arrangements for sick children and to free intensive care beds by making better use of beds used for those without life-threatening conditions.

Mr Dorrell also issued guidelines for hospitals to use beds more effectively, urging them to spell out admissions policies and procedures for the discharge and transfer of patients. He pledged that more beds would be provided after a further review was carried out within the next seven weeks.

He came under immediate attack from doctors' leaders who were furious at his suggestions that their misuse of intensive care beds had led to shortages. The British Medical Association said the guidelines would have to be backed by new resources "to avoid tragedies in the future".

Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, was also



Bottomley: ordered review a year ago

also quick to point out that no estimate had been given of the number of beds needed and no extra funds had been promised. "Seriously ill people need an intensive care bed, not a guideline," she said.

Guidelines on the use of intensive care beds said only patients expected to recover should be admitted to the units, which cost up to £1,300 a day to run, and greater use should be made of high dependency beds, which provide a lower level of care.

The guidelines, issued to all NHS trusts, say it is too expensive to fund intensive

care units to meet peak demand because wide fluctuations in need would waste resources. Transfers between units are inevitable but if properly managed by trained staff can be achieved safely.

The announcement follows a review of intensive care ordered by Virginia Bottomley as Health Secretary a year ago, in response to a series of episodes in which patients were transported around the country in search of a vacant intensive care bed.

The guidelines add that intensive care has high emotional costs to patients, their families and staff and is one of the most expensive elements of hospital treatment. "However, a significant proportion of the intensive care budget is expended on patients who ultimately die. It is therefore important to ensure that ... the most appropriate group of patients is admitted."

The guidelines say that doctors should consider the patients' chances of recovery, their pre-existing state of health, and their need for artificial ventilation or other support when deciding which to admit to intensive care. As soon as their condition has been treated and reversed they should be discharged to a high dependency bed or a general



Nurses in the high dependency unit at St Thomas's Hospital, where some patients are sent after intensive care

ward to make way for other patients.

The guidelines follow a study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of intensive care provision in England, published in February 1995, which found a twofold difference in the availability of beds.

Dr Chris Aps, clinical director of theatres and anaesthetics at St Thomas's Hospital in London, said yesterday that demand for intensive care beds could be cut if

hospitals diverted patients undergoing major surgery to specialist recovery units. He claimed that many surgical patients did not need the high level of care provided in an intensive care unit which should be kept free for those whose lives were in danger.

During the first 24 hours after surgery at St Thomas's, patients are cared for in an intensive recovery unit, which provides a level of care one step down from an intensive care unit, before being trans-

ferred to a general ward. Other surgical patients are cared for in high dependency beds, two steps down from the level of care provided in the intensive care unit.

Dr Aps said that, nationally, patients recovering from surgery occupied half of all intensive care beds. "Half those patients only need overnight support. Now that we have a unit to take those patients we have removed a huge workload."

Dr Aps said that from 1983

to 1995, 3,000 patients recovering from heart surgery — half the total operated on at the hospital — had been cared for in the recovery unit.

In a separate move, health authorities were ordered to ensure extra paediatric intensive care beds were provided following the inquiry into the care of Nicholas Geldard, 10, who died of a brain haemorrhage after being ferried between four hospitals in Manchester and Leeds in a fruitless quest for treatment.

NHS study turns the spotlight on shortage of casualty beds

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

SERIOUS shortcomings in hospital casualty departments will be disclosed next week in a report from the Audit Commission.

The NHS watchdog is expected to highlight wide variations in the length of time patients wait to be treated. In one hospital 84 per cent of patients had been given a bed an hour after arrival while at another only 2 per cent had done so in the same period. The report will also

say that accident and emergency departments are short of senior doctors, leaving patients to be treated by unsupervised juniors.

Yesterday, the Government moved to pre-empt the findings by issuing instructions on improving emergency care. In a letter to all NHS trusts and health authorities, Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said that they must agree action to respond to the increase in emergencies.

Last month, the British Medical

Association said that casualty departments were dangerously understaffed because of a shortage of junior doctors. Emergency admissions rose by 13 per cent over four years but 9,000 acute beds had been closed. The BMA said that there was "a desperate crisis looming".

In his letter, Mr Langlands says that a new Patient's Charter standard was being considered, which would set a target for the time from arrival in casualty to treatment or admission. Existing standards re-

quire patients to be assessed for the urgency of their condition within five minutes of arrival and set a maximum four-hour wait for a bed for patients on trolleys.

However, the Audit Commission report, details of which have been leaked to the *Health Service Journal*, says that hospitals that assessed patients most quickly were often slowest to treat them and that the "trolley waits" standard did not include waiting time before a decision to admit was made. A separate

report published yesterday says that Britain's first main trauma centre designed to deal with victims of serious accidents is no better at saving lives than conventional accident and emergency services.

The pioneering unit, established at the North Staffordshire Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, four years ago was expected to be the first of a network of 21 primary trauma centres covering the country. Staffed by accident and emergency consultants around the clock, the centre was designed to

overcome the problem of severely injured patients being treated by inexperienced doctors and was backed by the Royal College of Surgeons, which said it would save lives.

However, a four-year study by Sheffield University showed that the death rate among patients treated in Stoke was no better than those treated in normal casualty units in Humberside and Lancashire.

Body and Mind, page 17

Bill gives police powers in schools

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLICE will gain the right to raid schools and search children for knives and other weapons under plans that received cross-party support yesterday. Head teachers proposed the extra powers at an advisory group on school security set up by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, after the fatal stabbing of the headmaster Philip Lawrence in December.

The recommendation was included yesterday in the Offensive Weapons Bill during its committee stage and could be law by the summer. Penalties for carrying weapons will increase under Lady Olga Maitland's Private Member's Bill, which will also make it an offence to sell knives to children under 16.

The new legislation will close a loophole which meant that police could stop and search children on school buses but not in school grounds or buildings. Schools will be redefined as public places for the purposes of suspicion about weapon-carrying, but not for other offences such as possession of drugs.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers and a member of the group, said he thought very few head teachers would object to the extra police powers.

Mrs Shephard said the new legislation would be accompanied by guidance on good practice in school-police liaison. She wanted police to use their new powers sensitively and take "all practical steps" to seek consent from the head teacher before entering a school to search for weapons. "At levels in subjects regarded as easier to pass should be made more difficult, the Government's chief curriculum adviser will tell Mrs Shephard later this month. Sir Ron Dearing will call for the work required in subjects such as business studies and communication studies to match that expected in mathematics and chemistry."

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مركز من الأصغر

"That the theatre should have the exclusive services of such a man is astonishing"

Young guns come second to Nunn at the National

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TREVOR NUNN took centre stage at the National Theatre yesterday to be confirmed as its director. He spoke of his "breathless" excitement but admitted that he had not been particularly interested in the post when he was approached a fortnight ago.

"To begin with, I didn't give it much credence," he said. "It was only when the approaches didn't go away that I started to think more seriously."

Nunn will take over from Richard Eyre in the £90,000-a-year post in October 1997. Until then he will be involved on a part-time basis.

He had been the favourite for the most prominent job in British theatre from the moment that he was rumoured to be a contender, overshadowing candidates from a younger generation. At 56, he was much older than most on the shortlist, such as Sam Mendes, 30, of the Donmar Warehouse, and Stephen Daldry, 34, of the Royal Court Theatre. Some commentators have suggested that one of the younger generation should have been promoted, instilling the institution with fresh blood. However, Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of the board, stressed that they had been simply looking for the best person to run the National Theatre. Although Nunn spent 18 years heading the Royal Shakespeare Company, "an organisation of similar scale and complexity," he said that the challenge of this job made him feel "excited and breathless with anticipation and anxiety". That was partly explained by the "relative suddenness of the situation that I have found myself in", he added.



Nunn in 1967, hailed as the RSC's new "whizz-kid"

Nunn, the son of a cabinet-maker, was educated at Northgate Grammar School in Ipswich and Downing College, Cambridge. He began his professional career in 1962 with a scholarship to the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry. He went on to head the RSC at the age of 28 before becoming a multimillionaire in the commercial theatre with West End musicals. He made his fortune through hits such as *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Aspects of Love* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Nunn, who is married to the actress Imogen Stubbs, has also worked in television.

phant era than Trevor Nunn." Nunn stressed that he did not intend to make any sweeping changes. "That would be foolish." But, he added, there was bound to be a change of emphasis.

Nunn, the son of a cabinet-maker, was educated at Northgate Grammar School in Ipswich and Downing College, Cambridge. He began his professional career in 1962 with a scholarship to the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry. He went on to head the RSC at the age of 28 before becoming a multimillionaire in the commercial theatre with West End musicals. He made his fortune through hits such as *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Aspects of Love* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Nunn, who is married to the actress Imogen Stubbs, has also worked in television.

Leading article, page 19



Nunn yesterday. The new director of the National Theatre said he was "breathless with excitement"

Meteorite linked to pinball blizzard

BY NIGEL HAWKES

A METEORITE discovered in Antarctica ten years ago could help to explain a stormy period in the early history of the solar system.

The meteorite's structure and oxygen isotope content suggest that it came from Mars, exploding off the planet after the impact of some large object.

Now a team from Manchester University says in *Nature* that the four-billion-year-old meteorite is evidence that the bombardment involved the whole inner solar system.

In a commentary in the same issue, Dr Clark Chapman of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, suggests that the same thing might occur again.

The cataclysm was probably caused by a huge body, perhaps a comet, that ricocheted around the solar system like a pinball.

"If a giant comet broke up four billion years ago, maybe another comet could create another heavy bombardment in the future," he concludes.

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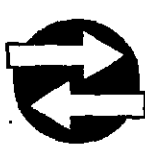
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Washington sends \$100m bomb detection equipment to Israel

US backs war on Hamas

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE United States significantly increased its role in the battle against Islamic terrorism in the Middle East yesterday when the first plane in an emergency airlift of bomb detection equipment valued at \$100 million (£65 million) landed at Tel Aviv airport.

As well as being of practical use in Israel's war against Hamas suicide bombers, the arrival of the new equipment was seen as indicative of Washington's diplomatic backing for Israel's new crackdown against Hamas.

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Housing Minister, said yesterday that Israel would soon embark on a worldwide campaign against the Hamas leadership which experts say will involve the use of hit squads. "We intend to hit all the leaders of Hamas," he said.

In a separate statement on Israel Radio Uri Orr, the Deputy Defence Minister, said: "The Israeli Army is not tied by any government. Anything that helps to fight terror will be done."

Mr Orr also claimed that

the bomber who killed 13 people in Tel Aviv on Monday had been driven there from Gaza by an Israeli Arab. For fear of reprisals, neither the driver nor his village were named.

"It is a very grave matter that an Israeli Arab co-operated with terrorists and smuggled a man into the state of Israel," Mr Orr said.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, described the US shipment as "a unique contribution to the joint effort in the

war against Islamic terrorism."

Israeli officials said that the American equipment would be used in the new series of road-blocks thrown up by Israeli troops to try to protect Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other Jewish population centres from further attacks.

"It should be emphasised that the shipment was the first in a series of similar shipments to arrive in the near future," an official added.

Israel has threatened to take

punitive military action both inside the Palestinian self-rule areas and inside Arab states that harbour and foster Hamas. This was backed by a diplomatic initiative launched by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, to isolate Iran, which is seen as one of the main international backers of Islamic terror.

"We think Iran is deeply involved in this at various levels—encouragement, funding, perhaps some direction," Mr Christopher said. Presi-

dent Clinton, who has condemned "the enemies of peace" behind the recent wave of suicide attacks, has ordered a team of counter-terrorism experts to help to buttress security in Israel.

The prompt and controversial decision by the Clinton Administration to become so closely involved in what many see as an increasingly "dirty war" was said in Western diplomatic circles to reflect his concern about the effect of stability in the whole region if the peace process collapses.

Israeli and Palestinian forces struck separately at Hamas suspects, affiliates and property over a wide area yesterday. They made hundreds of arrests and imposed a state of siege on the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority also took the unusual step of broadcasting a television message warning people not to harbour suspects or weaponry wanted by the police and stating that those caught would face heavy penalties.

Suspect's family is punished

Jerusalem: Symbolic of the ruthless crackdown against those suspected of any links with suicide bombers in Israel is the family home of Mohiedin Sharif, the fugitive bomb expert for Hamas, who tops Israel's wanted list (Christopher Walker writes).

His house in the normally quiet Jerusalem suburb of Beit Hanina was surrounded by hundreds of Israeli troops on Tuesday. Belongings were

packed in the back yard as troops sealed windows and doors, while others fanned out on surrounding rooftops.

"It is as if they are about to start a war," said Umm Abed, a neighbour. Graffiti scrawled on her front door said: "Islam is the solution — Hamas". Mr Sharif, whose handiwork is believed to have been behind some of the recent bombings, is revered by young Muslim fanatics as

"The Engineer No 2", and is regarded as the successor to Yehia Ayyash, the master Hamas bombmaker killed by Mossad agents in January.

Those evicted included Mr Sharif's parents, his two brothers and their families, a total of 13 people. They are moving into a tent provided by the Red Cross, said the father, Ribki Sharif, who called for an end to bombings. "Enough is enough," he said.



A Palestinian girl confined by a curfew to her home near Hebron yesterday

Letters, page 19

Jews protest over Mandela plan to see Palestinians

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA incensed Jewish groups in South Africa by saying that he is prepared to meet Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement responsible for the suicide bomb raids in Israel.

Three South African Jews were among the 13 people who died in the blast on Monday in Tel Aviv. Members of their family questioned the President's judgment, as unconfirmed reports here claimed that representatives of Hamas are to visit next month.

Robyn Lipner, whose grandmother and aunt died alongside Tali Gordan, 25, all residents of Johannesburg, said: "They murdered my family. Why are they coming here? My family were innocent people. I believe it's absolutely disgusting and an insult that Hamas are coming to South Africa."

Her sentiments were echoed by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the South African Zionist Federation. In a joint statement, they urged "responsible politicians" not to meet "these people whose hands were dripping with blood".

Ronny Silbermann, the fed-

eration's executive director, condemned Mr Mandela. "We are very shocked that the President has made this statement with the bodies of dead still warm. This is no time to be siding with murderers."

President Mandela, 77, made his comments at a private clinic in Johannesburg where doctors yesterday gave him a "clean bill of health" after two days of tests. He is due to be discharged today.

Responding to questions about an announcement on national radio that a Hamas delegation was to visit in April, he said: "We condemn the bombings in the strongest terms because violence does not help solve any problems. But my attitude is to see everybody who wants to see me, whether I agree with his policy or not."

It is not the first time Mr Mandela has landed in trouble with South Africa's Jewish community which he has often been at pains to cultivate. Jewish groups recently condemned his meeting with Louis Farrakhan, the controversial Nation of Islam leader in America who stands accused of anti-Semitism.

Chinese wargames raise fears in Taiwan

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA'S newspapers published front-page diagrams yesterday of how its missiles would "bracket" Taiwan and seal off its key ports in week-long war exercises beginning tomorrow. Diplomats said that in future military exercises Peking may even cordon off the "renegade province".

In Taiwan, rising anxiety led to jitters on the stock market as it emerged that surface-to-surface missiles may fly over the island, and possibly its capital, Taipei, to target sites. China has also ignored American protests which called the proposed action provocative.

A commentary in key Chinese newspapers yesterday rejected overtures for a summit made earlier this year by President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan. It claimed that Mr Lee was bent on pushing Taiwan towards independence. "He can unceasingly change his colour and hide himself, but Lee Teng-hui's nature to split the country will not change," it said. Xinhua news agency said Mr Lee was "attempting to split China in the garb of democracy".

The missile tests in seas off Taiwan, to be held from tomorrow until March 15, comes in advance of the territory's first free presidential election, on March 23, which Mr Lee is expected to win.

Diplomats now say that tensions over Taiwan will not end after the poll and that in future exercises, China will show how easily it can block all of Taiwan's key ports.

Lawrence Freedman, page 18



Molgi: third Palestinian terrorist to escape

Hijacker escapes Italian jail

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian press yesterday said that the "credibility of the country's security apparatus" was in doubt after the escape of a third Palestinian terrorist involved in the hijacking of the cruise liner *Achille Lauro* 11 years ago. It accused the Government of courting Arab dictators and tolerating Arab terrorism to advance diplomatic and commercial interests.

Yusef Maghid Molgi, a key figure in the hijacking, had been in jail in Genoa since 1985. He was sentenced to 30 years for the murder on board the ship of Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly disabled American Jew. The killing aroused particular horror because Mr Klinghoffer was confined to a wheelchair.

Two weeks ago Italian magistrates authorised Molgi's release on unsecured leave because of "good behaviour". He failed to return. Reginald Bartholomew, the American Ambassador, has demanded an explanation.



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JANET BUSH 27

Cross-party courage needed for rate cuts



BOOKS 34,35

The racy vigour running through Kipling's letters



SPORT 39-44

Villeneuve drives away doubts on eve of new season

GEOFF BROWN
REVIEWS THE
NEW FILMS
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 7 1996

Rowland set to sell Lonrho stake to Bock for £91m



Dieter Bock, left, and Tiny Rowland

BY MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

TINY ROWLAND, one of the UK's most controversial businessmen, is shortly expected to sell the majority of his remaining stake in Lonrho, the international conglomerate, for more than £91 million.

Indications are that Mr Rowland, who was unceremoniously ousted from Lonrho's board a year ago, has decided to exercise his "put" agreement in respect of almost 6 per cent of Lonrho's equity with Dieter Bock, chief executive and the company's largest shareholder, with an 18.6 per cent stake.

The arrangement between Mr Rowland and Mr Bock dates back to December 1992 when Mr Bock joined Lonrho to work alongside Mr Rowland as joint chief executive.

Under the agreement, 45,529,447 Lonrho shares held by Yeoman Investments, a company in which Mr Rowland is interested, are the subject of "put" (sell) and "call" (buy) options with Laerstate BV, a company owned by Mr Bock. The "put" and "call" option came into play on December 9, 1995, and permitted either party to enforce a sale of the shares to Laerstate for up to 12 months.

Mr Rowland is reliably understood to have let it be known that he intends to exercise his "put" option. The precise price that Mr Rowland will receive for his shares is uncertain, but, based on recent market averages, the 45.5 million shares could well command a price of about 200p, valuing the stake at more than £91 million. Lonrho closed at 193p.

Mr Rowland's sale of the stake to Laerstate will serve to raise Mr Bock's holding in Lonrho to almost 25 per cent. In the wake of Lonrho's 1995 results, Mr Bock indicated that he was relaxed about the option but hinted that his existing 18.6 per cent was sufficient to enforce his

demerger strategy. The possibility of Mr Bock placing Mr Rowland's share block with institutions cannot be ruled out.

Mr Rowland's decision to sell comes shortly after Lonrho's annual meeting at which the ousted tycoon, through a spokesman, alleged that the German property developer did not spend sufficient time on Lonrho's business. Sir John Leahy, the former diplomat who is now Lonrho's chairman, declared that since Mr Bock became chief executive, profits had risen from £59 million to £161 million, while the share price had risen from 75p to 192½p.

Mr Bock revealed, however,

that when Lonrho's demerger takes effect later this year he intends to devote almost all his time to the non-mining interests embracing hotels, agriculture and general trading operations.

Mr Rowland, who ran Lonrho for more than three decades, has strongly opposed Lonrho's proposed merger of its platinum interests with those of Gencor, the South African mining company. He favours a flotation of Lonrho's platinum interests.

Lonrho's share price recently touched a year's peak of 217½p, fuelled by speculation that the demerger could herald a bid for Lonrho Mining from the likes of Anglo American.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3758.9	(-18.2)
FT-SE All Share	3822.5	(-5.94)
Nikkei	20241.18	(+57.31)
Dow Jones	5831.94	(-10.48)
S&P Composite	653.99	(-1.80)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%	(5½%)
Long Bond	9¾%	(8¾%)
Yield	6.43%	(6.30%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6½%	(6½%)
Libor 6m (3m)	107½%	(107½%)

STERLING

New York	1.5294*	(1.5305)
London	1.5291	(1.5289)
DM	2.2561	(2.2558)
FF	7.7250	(7.7255)
Sfr	1.5351	(1.5339)
Yen	161.09	(160.85)
£ Index	63.6	(63.6)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London	1.4758*	(1.4743)
FF	5.0544*	(5.0529)
Sfr	1.5005*	(1.4991)
Yen	105.35*	(105.21)
£ Index	95.6	(95.6)

Tokyo close Yen 105.20

United States	105.20	(105.20)
Brent 15-day (May)	\$17.20	(\$17.05)

Gold

London close	\$393.85	(\$393.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

Mortgage lenders ready to cut rates

By ROBERT MILLER, PHILIP BASSETT AND JANET BUSH

MORTGAGE lenders said that they were on standby to follow any cut in base rates decided at today's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the Bank of England.

The Confederation of British Industry said that it would favour another quarter-point slice off base rates.

The Abbey National said yesterday that, if base rates are cut, "it is very likely that we would move too". Geoffrey Lister, chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "There is a possibility that we would take more than just the base rate cut into account when setting a new lower level for our home loans." The Woolwich said it, too, would cut mortgage rates for its 500,000-plus borrowers. Gary Marsh, assistant general manager of the Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, said last night: "We would almost certainly react to a further cut in base rates."

A quarter-point cut in base rates to 6 per cent would push mortgage rates to their lowest level since 1966 and shave at least £4 a month off a £50,000 repayment loan, bringing the monthly outgoings to below £200. On a £50,000 loan, the monthly saving would be more than £7.

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday said it would be happy to see another interest rate cut. Although the economy is likely to recover this year without one, low inflation still means lower rates would not be a risk. Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said it would be sensible to give the economy a mild stimulus and that

there was a "lot to be said" for moving in quarter-point steps on rates, since interest rates generally were so low.

The City is betting heavily on another quarter-point cut in base rates to 6 per cent. The monetary meeting is scheduled for this afternoon. If a rate cut is agreed, it is likely to be implemented on Friday.

Assurances from leading lenders that mortgage rates would follow base rates lower were welcome given figures yesterday showing that the construction business is still not benefiting from tentative signs of recovery in the housing market. Private housing starts, which are highly interest rate sensitive and tend to lead the rest of the economy, fell to 9,400 in January from 10,900 in December, a year-on-year drop of 16 per cent. Taking the past three months together, private starts were nearly 5 per cent lower than the previous three months and 20 per cent down on a year ago.

Car sales figures painted a slightly more positive picture, with evidence that sales are on a gentle upward trend. Sales in February totalled 159,013, 4.4 per cent up on a year ago. This is nothing like the growth rates seen in late 1993 and early 1994, but there is, at least, some growth.

Michael Saunders, economist with Salomon Brothers, said that the economy was clearly sluggish but not very weak and the authorities can simply cut base rates again. "It could be this week or it could be next month, but a further rate cut probably is still on the way," he said.

Cross-party courage, page 27



Catherine Wall, BZW regional director, with Brian Blakemore, BZW Private Equity director, who is to join Powerhouse's board

Hanson sells Powerhouse to management buyout

By GEORGE SIVELL

POWERHOUSE, the electrical retailer that has never made a profit, was sold to its management yesterday by Hanson, the conglomerate that only acquired full control of it in November.

BZW Private Equity, the Barclays Bank offshoot that backed the buyout, said yesterday: "There is an agreement between all parties to the deal not to disclose the purchase price."

Hanson made no official announcement of the deal. On February 2, it announced that 2,300 of Powerhouse's 3,500

staff were to go and that 195 stores would close, leaving just 122 in the Midlands, the South and East of England. In its three years of existence, Powerhouse lost about £25 million a year.

When Hanson acquired full control of Powerhouse, its then co-owners, Midlands Electricity and Southern Electric, took a charge of £140 million.

Hanson acquired 36 per cent of Powerhouse when it bought Eastern Electricity last year and bought the rest from Midlands and Southern when they became bid targets of

PowerGen and National Power. The management team takes control of Powerhouse at some point during the summer. Yesterday BZW said: "The prospects for Powerhouse as a pure retailer are very exciting. They will be profitable from day one."

As a high street retailer owned by three regional electricity companies, Powerhouse had been the subject of a complaint by Dixons to the Office of Fair Trading. Dixons maintained the competition from Powerhouse was unfair because Eastern, Southern and Midlands were using profits from regional monopolies to subsidise losses on the high street.

Meanwhile, stock market rumour is mounting that a bid is on the way for Imperial, the tobacco group owned by Hanson that will become one of four separate companies when Hanson demerges.

Yesterday stockbrokers at Henderson Crosthwaite put a break-up value of £2.24 billion on Imperial as part of a calculation that produced a break up value per share of Hanson of 224p. Hanson shares fell 2p to close at 189½p yesterday.

Tempus, page 26

Broughton: cost savings

Pennington, page 25

BAT plays down demerger talk

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BAT INDUSTRIES has played down speculation that it might follow Hanson and British Gas and demerge its two core businesses, insurance and tobacco. Martin Broughton, chief executive, said: "We believe we can add more value for our shareholders if we keep our two businesses, as is."

The company reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £2.38 billion for the year to December 31. Mr Broughton

predicted cost savings and job losses in the company's UK insurance businesses, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

BAT enjoyed a 54 per cent rise in tobacco profits to £1.56 billion, but found selling new life business more difficult.

Poor publicity for the life industry over the pensions mis-selling meant Allied Dunbar's total premium income of £1.53 billion was 14 per cent down. BAT has set aside an

extra £37 million as a pre-tax charge to compensate Allied Dunbar customers who may have been mis-sold pensions.

Within the UK, general insurance underwriting profit fell to £9 million (£68 million).

Mr Broughton refused to comment on future acquisitions, including rumours that BAT might buy Hanson's Imperial Tobacco.



Broughton: cost savings

Jennings departs from House of Fraser

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ANDREW JENNINGS has left abruptly as managing director of House of Fraser, the beleaguered department store group.

His executive responsibilities have been assumed by Brian McGowan, the group's existing non-executive chairman, who becomes executive

ment for Mr Jennings, who was on an annual salary of £270,000 and had a one-year contract, is still under discussion. Mr Jennings also has 440,000 share options as well as the use of a two-bedroom flat in Kensington.

A company insider claimed the group, which includes Dickins & Jones, Kendals and Army & Navy stores, had been under increasing pressure from institutions and House

of Fraser non-executive directors. He claimed that both parties had become increasingly concerned that Mr Jennings' leadership had not been decisive enough. Concern heightened in January after the company's progress fell short of its internal budgets and prompted a profits warning.

Mr McGowan said directors were generally happy with the group's strategy, which was largely devised by

Mr Jennings, but felt that vigour and direction was lacking. He said: "There was virtually no support at all, among institutions, in Andrew Jennings."

Among those mentioned as possible replacements are David Dworkin, the former Storehouse chief. The shares gained 11p to 188p, compared with a float price of 180p two years ago.

Pennington, page 27

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Competition warning hits Glaxo shares

BY ERIC REGULY

LOWER than expected profit margins and an admission that competition from generic drugs could be severe pushed shares of Glaxo Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceuticals group, down by almost 5 per cent yesterday.

The City took fright after Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said that 70 per cent of sales of Zantac, the ulcer treatment that has been the world's top selling drug since the mid-1980s, would be subject to generic competition next year when patents expired in America, Britain and other European countries.

The shares closed at 876p, down 44p, on volume of 29.4 million shares.

In the 18 months to December 31, sales of Zantac fell 4 per cent to £2.25 billion. Lehman Brothers, the securities house, predicted recently that Zantac sales would fall to less than £500 million annually in 2000.

The disclosures caused Glaxo's own broker, ABN Amro-Hoare Govett, to reduce its rating on the shares from "buy" to "undervalued", meaning that it does not expect them to outperform the market this year greatly.

Anthony Colletta, a Hoare

Govett analyst, said that the market had forecast trading profit margins of 38 to 39 per cent; the actual "old" margin at the end of December was 35.5 per cent. He said that the high cost of launching new drugs was behind the lower margins. Glaxo's goal is to introduce at least three new products a year, each with target annual sales of £500 million, in an effort to offset declining sales of Zantac.

Glaxo, which completed its £9.1 billion acquisition of Wellcome a year ago, reported a pre-tax profit of £3.6 billion, or 74.6p per share, in the 18-month period, and an integration charge of £1.2 billion. The figures are officially 18-month results because of a change in the company's year end.

In the 12-month period to the end of December, which includes nine months of Wellcome's results, Glaxo had a pre-tax profit of £2.5 billion, against a profit of £1.9 billion for Glaxo alone in 1994.

Glaxo is to pay a final dividend of 15p. With the first and second interim dividends of 10p and 20p, this makes a total of 45p for the 18 months.

Pennington, page 25

Talks aim at rescue for Fokker

In a last-ditch effort to persuade Dutch financial institutions to back a rescue of Fokker, the collapsed plane-builder, Hans Wijers, Dutch Economics Minister, yesterday held talks with ABN-Amro, ING and Rabobank, together with ABP and PGGM, pension funds.

They have been asked to back either a rescue by Samsung Aerospace of South Korea or Avic of China, or a stand-alone rescue plan. If talks fail, bankruptcy proceedings are likely by March 15, when emergency state aid runs out.

Meanwhile, bondholders claim that a transfer of aircraft leases to Debis Airfinance, a subsidiary of Daimler-Benz, Fokker's parent, Daimler-Benz, before it withdrew financial support on January 22, were illegal.

NS date

Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, yesterday confirmed that National Savings will become an executive agency on July 1. It will still have its annual performance targets and resources agreed with Treasury ministers.

Payout lifted

BWD Securities, the northern-based asset management group, raised its total dividend 19 per cent to 5p despite a £500,000 fall in profits to £2.5 million.



WYEVALE Garden Centres hopes to counter the effects of restrictions on Sunday trading by opening for late-night shopping this spring. The company may now open for just six hours each Sunday.

and legislation will prevent it from trading on Easter Sunday, traditionally one of the busiest days. Brian Evans, chief executive (pictured, left, with Steve Murfin, finance director), yesterday re-

ported a 12 per cent rise in underlying profits in 1995 to £6.6 million before tax. Adjusted earnings were 11.7p a share (10.4p). The total dividend rises to 5.32p (4.84p), with a 2.1p final.

Airbus wins \$3bn ILFC order

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European jet builder, has won a \$3 billion order for 38 aircraft from International Lease Finance Corporation.

The aircraft leasing company, which is based in Los Angeles, becomes the launch customer for the extended-range A330-200 twin-jet, buying 13 of the 256-seat widebodies.

It has also ordered 12 of the aircraft's four-engine sister

models, the ultra-long-range A340-300, an A330-300, and 12 smaller twin-jets in the A320 series.

The order is a coup for the Airbus consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, and will provide welcome work for BAE sites at Filton, near Bristol, and Chester.

Airbus had been losing out in recent sales campaigns to Boeing, its American arch-

rival. But ILFC, Airbus's biggest customer, split its order for widebodies. It also ordered 18 Boeing 777 twin-jets, the main rival to the A330/A340 series, yesterday, in a \$2.8 billion deal. The order has been placed in spite of reports of teething troubles with the Boeing jet.

Rolls-Royce Trent engines have been chosen to power four of the ILFC A330-200s, giving the manufacturer a

launch order on the new version. A bigger version of the Trent was also chosen for four of the 777s, bringing the total contract value for Rolls, based in Derby, to \$175 million.

Airlines worldwide are expected to place orders for 5,900 new aircraft worth \$1.100 billion over the next 20 years, according to an annual market forecast released by Boeing yesterday.

Jobs boost for Swan Hunter

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SWAN HUNTER, the Tyneside shipyard, bought from administrative receivers nine months ago by THC, the Dutch group, is expected to recruit more than 1,200 workers to complete the conversion of Solitaire, the 90,000-tonne bulk carrier, into a pipelaying vessel.

The yard has already received 4,000 applications from job-hunters, with two thirds of the applications coming from former employees. The Solitaire contract was won in the face of competition from yards in France, Germany and Italy. Tom Brennan, chairman of the Tyne Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and one of the leaders of a campaign to save the yard, said: "To win something so big suggests very well for the future, and we hope there will be more contracts like it to provide employment continuity."

The Ailsa-Perth shipyard at Troon in Scotland was placed in receivership yesterday, putting 150 jobs in jeopardy. A spokesman for KPMG, the accountants, blamed cashflow problems at the yard, which is building a ferry for the Orkney Islands Council and undertaking contracts for the Ministry of Defence. The receivers will endeavour to sell the business as a going concern.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

CBI European agenda

BRITAIN needs to re-establish its credibility in Europe, the CBI said yesterday as it set out the priorities for British business in the EU. Launching a series of events aimed at putting a new emphasis on what business wants in Europe, the CBI said there has been "too much emphasis on grand political themes and too limited an examination of the economic realities". It also gave warning of the dangers of not participating fully in talks on Europe's future.

End of line for duopoly

SHARES in British Telecom and Cable & Wireless slipped yesterday after the Government said that it may end their duopoly on international calls. The Department of Trade and Industry said that, after a consultation process due to end next month, new licences are likely to be issued by the summer and will lead to lower prices for consumers. BT shares fell 7½p to 369p and C&W 4p to 450p.

Woodchester advances

WOODCHESTER INVESTMENTS said yesterday that the 19 per cent rise in its annual profits to Ir£36.4 million reflected the reorganisation of Irish activities and a concentration on the core businesses of motor, business equipment, agricultural machinery and insurance premium financing. Assets grew to Ir£22.2 billion (Ir£18 billion). The dividend was raised to Ir£6.83p (Ir£5.94p).

Profit pledges

TWO building societies based in the Midlands pledged to pass on more of their annual profits to members as a sign of their commitment to mutualism. Birmingham Midshires reported a 21 per cent rise in profits to £63.9 million. Gross mortgage lending was up at £1.9 billion (£1.1 billion). The Derbyshire reported unchanged pre-tax profits of £21.3 million. Net lending fell to £48 million, from £92 million.

Record for Candover

CANDOVER, the venture and development capital investment trust, yesterday unveiled a record net asset value of £103.8 million (£84.35 million) and lifted its final dividend to 8.75p (8.1p). Pre-tax profits rose 7.6 per cent to £5.22 million. The group underlined its ability to spot potential winners by making a £12 million net gain on the realisation of ten investments, including six stock market flotations.

Unilever disposal

UNILEVER, the consumer products company, is to sell its main European mass-market colour cosmetics interests to Germany's Beiersdorf Group for an undisclosed amount. Beiersdorf is buying the business of Rimmel-Chicago, which has international rights to the Rimmel, Pierre Robert, Sensiq and Chicago brands, together with production facilities in Ashford, Kent, and near Düsseldorf in Germany.

MetroCentre plan

THE MetroCentre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, one of Europe's largest retail developments, is to be further extended at a cost of about £50 million. Capital Shopping Centres is seeking planning permission for a 380,000 sq ft extension providing new shops, including a Debenhams store, and a further 1,700 parking spaces. The extension will create 500 construction jobs and 1,000 retail jobs.

Britannia Life chief leaves

THE head of Britannia Life, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Britannia Building Society, has quit after a clash over the direction of the company (Caroline Merrell writes).

Peter Burdon, managing director, said: "We decided to part company. There has been a lot of changes in the company over the last few years. Britannia has decided it wants to consolidate its position." Britannia has expanded aggressively by acquisition in recent years. The company said it wanted to continue to expand organically rather than through acquisition. Until recently, Britannia was tipped as the next society most likely to convert.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.10	1.94
Austria Sch	13.91	15.41
Belgium Fr	46.47	45.17
Canada \$	2.205	2.045
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.895
Denmark Kr	8.35	8.55
Finland Mk	7.98	6.93
France Fr	9.16	7.51
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong \$	12.47	11.67
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1500	4.5500
Italy Lira	2475.00	2220.00
Japan Yen	175.30	159.30
Malta	0.582	0.568
Netherlands Gld	2.685	2.455
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.18
Norway Kr	10.44	9.64
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	6.46	6.06
Spain Ptas	168.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	11.98	10.38
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	1.627	97000.0
USA \$	1.627	1.497

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

"An Outstanding Year"

Preliminary results for the year to 31 December 1995

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£2,384m	+26%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	47.70p	+19%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	24.00p	+10%
Additional FID payment on 1995 final	3.6875p	

- Pre-tax profit increased 26 per cent, from £1,885 million to £2,384 million, 21 per cent after excluding last year's £191 million reorganisation provision and the impact of disposals.
- Quantum leap forward for tobacco. Profit of £1,561 million, up 54 per cent, or 29 per cent excluding 1994's provision for reorganising American Tobacco. Cigarette sales rose 18 per cent to 670 billion. World market share grew from 10.7 per cent to 12.4 per cent.
- Robust performance in financial services. Trading profit up 7 per cent at £1,052 million, breaking £1 billion profit barrier for first time. General business profit rose 14 per cent to £624 million. Profit of £428 million from life and investment business was flat.
- Base dividend for year up 10 per cent. Total dividends, including Foreign Income Dividend additional payment, up 14 per cent.
- "Whether measured by pre-tax profit, earnings or dividend, 1995 was an outstanding year for B.A.T Industries. By developing and concentrating our management skills in financial services and tobacco, we are determined to continue delivering superior total returns for shareholders, over the long term."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

Full financial statements for the year ended 31/12/95 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report. The 1995 Annual Report is being posted to shareholders at the end of March. Copies of the preliminary announcement may be obtained from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

مكتبة من الأصول

□ Takeovers prescribed for drugs giant □ Retailer needs swift appointment □ Spreading the good news on demerger

Glaxo's missing formula

GLAXO's swoop last year on Wellcome was always driven by the need to offset the decline of Zantac, the ulcer treatment that has been the world's best-selling drug for a decade, with a new portfolio of classic compounds. What no one had appreciated was just how badly Glaxo really needed Wellcome.

Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, spoke of the mounting threat to Zantac of generic competition, as expiring patents tempted in cheaper competition. This is the common enemy of all drug companies, who only have a few years to turn inspiration into profit, but yesterday marked the first time his company has offered much detail. Lehman Brothers, for example, believes that Zantac, sales of £2.25 billion last year, will be beaten into virtual extinction by the turn of the century. Glaxo's share price dived, leaving City traders broadly split on the stock.

The question now is whether Wellcome will be enough to take up the slack left by Zantac. Alas, probably not. Wellcome was not as dependent on a single drug but, on its own, that portfolio will not do the job. For example, sales of Wellcome's Zovirax, the shingles treatment that is the group's second largest earner, are al-

ready on the wane because of generic competition again.

Wellcome has bought some time for Glaxo, but it is now clear that its future, as with any other drug company, will depend on the successful development and launch of new products. The aim is to market three new compounds a year, each with annual sales of at least £500 million. Not an easy target. Making new commercial drugs is much more expensive than marketing existing ones, far too many promising ones losing their way on the rocky path of research and development. Little surprise that the City expects Glaxo's once-massive profit margins to fall over the next few years.

Another solution, of course, is to go out and buy another company. Analysts are already predicting that Glaxo will have to make another blockbuster acquisition to stay where it is, or ensure at least some growth. With Glaxo still digesting Wellcome, a purchase in the short term appears unlikely;

longer term, it is probably essential. Glaxo, as big as it is, has only 5 per cent of the global market. There will be further consolidation, even if the group may next time lack the advantage of a large stake in its target that can be won over like that held by the Wellcome Trust.

Glaxo has a fine history, and comprises the bulk of one of Britain's most important industries. On a good day, it has the largest capitalisation on the London stock market. But with Zantac on the way out, the glory days are over. Takeovers, as well as research and development, will define a difficult future.

Keeping open House

IN HIS years at Williams Holdings Brian McGowan obviously learned well the subtle skill of dodging the flak. Management changes had been in the air at House of Fraser since last summer, even before January's

profits warning. But the betting had been that McGowan's job was on the line.



In the event, in the words of the poem, the dog it was that died. House of Fraser's unimpressive managing director, Andrew Jennings, was shown the door, rather than the pin-striped smoothie who was paid £1 million for his work in floating the company two years ago.

Life can be cruel, and Mr Jennings' sacking was greeted by the City with an abrupt jump in the share price. But his departure falls a long way short of the actions unhappy institutional shareholders who have been

pushing for management changes will need.

That price rise, to above their 180p value on flotation, puts the shares on exactly 20 times' this year's earnings, or about twice what they are worth on fundamentals. House of Fraser is regarded by the market as a bid waiting to happen, and a vacuum at the top can only enhance that impression.

Both Mr McGowan, now executive chairman, and the other non-executives conspicuously lack retailing experience. The search for a new managing director starts here, and it had better be a short one.

Among the candidates must be David Dworkin, the former Storehouse chief who lit out in great haste to the United States. Two factors count against him. One is that early departure — the board will want some evidence of commitment. The other is that he would be ruinously expensive, having enjoyed a huge pay-off from Storehouse and an even bigger one from his next em-

ployer. Any package that might tempt him would stick in the craw of House of Fraser's already aggrieved shareholders.

Cracking Hanson's tax code

NO ONE was ever quite sure why Hanson went into electrical retailing in the first place, but it must have had something to do with tax. The sale of the shops, for an undisclosed sum not unadjacent to nothing at all, only confirms the suspicion.

There was no reason to take on the burden; indeed, retail is far from being your typical Hanson business, which tends to be dirty and cash-generative. Then there was the hit on last month's closures. It was described as a "management exercise," yet the total cost cannot have left much change from £150 million — unless there is a tax angle.

Hanson is now in a low-key round of City briefings to explain some of the numbers behind the

conglomerate's badly received demerger plans. A confident study from Henderson Crosthwaite yesterday put a break-up value of 224p a share.

The shares have lost 22p, or a tenth of their value, since their first mark-up on the day the plans were announced and now stand at 189½p. It is a fair bet the management will have a positive tale to tell, especially on tax, which may be rather lower than doubters had feared, and central costs, ditto. Rumours of the sale of Imperial Tobacco are well wide of the mark, but expect the share price to nudge up to at least the £2 level as the good news gets about.

Migrating

RATHER a bad day for departures, really, what with Mr Jennings at House of Fraser, the refusal by Peter Burdon at Britannia Life to work for a dull old building society and the end of David Wellings's three-year stretch at Cadbury Schweppes. Mr Wellings has certainly managed the most graceful departure. The other two are off down the Social Security with various amounts tucked into their back pockets: he is retiring to Minorca to write about bird-watching.

Nadir aide 'was sent £400,000'

THE sum of £400,000 sent by Polly Peck International (PPI) to a Swiss bank account was to be paid out in cash on receipt of satisfactory identification, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Instructions for the money to be paid personally to Elizabeth Forsyth were sent to SG Warburg Soditic from PPI in London. Mrs Forsyth, 59, denies two counts of handling nearly £400,000. The money was allegedly stolen from PPI by Asif Nadir.

Madeleine Schmucki, head of the credit department at the former Bank SG Warburg Soditic AG in Zurich, told the court of a telex requesting the transfer of £400,000 to the Geneva branch. The money was to be allocated in cash for collection by Mrs Forsyth. The trial continues today.

Dr Pepper adds fizz to Cadbury profits

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE £1.6 billion purchase of Dr Pepper/Seven-Up helped full-year profits at Cadbury Schweppes to fizz to £526 million — 10 per cent higher than last year.

The chocolate and soft drinks company said profits from the US beverage division had increased 97 per cent to £240 million and that Dr Pepper's 10-month contribution had been earnings enhancing. Cadbury also revealed that it had received £10.8 million in profits from Camelot, the lottery operator which Cadbury part owns.

But shares in the company fell 19p to 536p over fears that earnings would be restricted next year by Cadbury's announcement that it wanted to

raise dividend cover and was considering making a £250 million rights issue on the New York Stock Exchange.

There was also concern over the appointment of a replacement for David Welling, chief executive, who intends to step down in September.

Overall turnover grew 19 per cent to £4.75 billion. Margins were 13.6 per cent (12.5 per cent). The dividend rises 6.7 per cent to 16p. The figures include a £49 million restructuring charge, previously announced, and a £17 million profit from the disposal of ITnet, the company's IT subsidiary.

Profits in the beverage division increased 52 per cent to £409 million, with sales up 28

per cent at £2.8 billion. Cadbury said its Spanish operations had returned to profit and that it had enjoyed good growth in new markets.

The company also insisted that it had been a winner in last year's cola wars in spite of stiff competition from own brands and new entrants to the market, such as Virgin Cola. The hot summer helped volumes to increase by 11 per cent, while Cadbury claimed that Virgin had won just 2 per cent of the cola market.

Confectionery profits increased 2 per cent to £240 million as margins came under pressure, falling 7 percentage points to 12.2 per cent. *Tempos, page 26*

Kingfisher 1,000-job expansion

KINGFISHER, the retail group, and Staples, the American company, are to create more than 1,000 jobs over the next two years as part of their plan to open 30 office products superstores in the UK (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The joint venture already has 26 stores in the UK and plans to open another ten this year followed by a further 20 in 1997.

In line with projections, the stores made a loss of £7 million last year on sales of about £64 million. Turnover is forecast to reach £120 million this year and the stores are expected to break even in the final quarter. Tom Stenberg, founder and chairman of Staples, said: "There is room for several hundred stores in the UK. We plan to open stores as fast as we can."

BSkyB buys into European pay TV

By ERIC REGULY

BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster, yesterday entered the European pay television market by acquiring 25 per cent of Germany's Premiere channel for £270 million.

The deal marks BSKYB's first foreign investment and follows the breakdown of talks with CLT of Luxembourg, the TV and radio group that owns half of Talk Radio in Britain. CLT and BSKYB were examining the launch of a digital pay TV service in Germany.

BSKYB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has also formed a strategic alliance with three European partners to develop digital pay TV businesses in Europe. Premiere is Europe's only German-language pay TV

channel. It has 1.1 million cable and direct-to-home subscribers and is expected to break even in its 1996-97 financial year after having lost DM71 million last year. BSKYB's purchase price works out to \$1,000 per subscriber.

BSKYB bought half of its Premiere stake from Canal Plus, of France, and half from Bertelsmann, the German media company that launched Premiere. When the transaction is completed, each of the three will have a 25 per cent interest, the rest owned by Kirch Gruppe of Germany.

In its second deal, BSKYB will own 30 per cent of the strategic alliance, as will Bertelsmann and Canal Plus. Havas, the French advertising company, will own 10 per cent.

Ex-chairmen of Lloyd's face action

THE Society of Lloyd's and nine former Lloyd's professionals, including three ex-chairmen, are being sued in the High Court for alleged breach of duty and deliberate concealment by John Donner, a former Lloyd's underwriting agent and name, and Patricia Donner, a name (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The former Lloyd's chairmen named in the writ are Sir Peter Green, Murray Lawrence, and Sir Peter Miller. A spokesman for Lloyd's of London said: "The core allegations have been examined by Lloyd's twice already." In 1989, four nominated members of the Council of Lloyd's reviewed Mr Donner's allegations. There was a second examination last year by Freshfields, Lloyd's legal adviser.

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protected with that kind
of money, you can
avoid to make a stronger
promise than others.

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INSURANCE & INVESTMENT

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

South West Water rises on talk of American bid

THE takeover spotlight switched to the water utilities as shares of South West Water leapt 30p to 538p amid speculation that the company could be on the receiving end of a bid from across the Atlantic.

City speculators have become excited by reports in the US financial press that California's Water Services was looking to make a bid in this country. South West is viewed by City speculators as the most likely target.

They say the Americans might be prepared to offer about 600p a share valuing the entire company at £763 million. By the close of business last night 1 million South West shares had changed hands in a thin market where traders will normally only quote a price in 25,000 at a time.

Other water companies benefited from this latest flurry of speculation with Anglian rising 9p to 588p, Severn Trent 6p to 649p, Southern 9p to 697p, Thames 15p to 533p, and Yorkshire 6p to 650p.

Share prices generally found the going difficult. Investors were in a cautious mood before today's monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank Governor. A cut of about a quarter point is anticipated, but has already been taken into account by the market generally. The two men are not expected to meet until the afternoon which means any cut is unlikely to be sanctioned until tomorrow morning.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index closed near its low for the day, in spite of another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street, with a fall of 18.2 at 3,758.9. Total turnover reached 836 million swollen by a cross in 100 million shares at 1p in Dragon Oil, unchanged at 1 1/2p.

The reaction set in after a clutch of trading statements from leading companies that failed to meet expectations. At first glance, full-year figures from Glaxo Wellcome, Cadbury Schweppes and BAT Industries appeared impressive. But closer inspection put brokers on their guard. Glaxo was towards the bottom end of expectations with pre-tax profits up from £2.18 billion to £2.5 billion. It was achieved despite the expected 4 per cent downturn in sales of Zantac, its ulcer



Not so sweet: Dominic Cadbury and David Wellings

treatment, after expiry of its US patent. The group retained cheerful about current prospects and is optimistic about new drug projects starting to filter through.

But the Glaxo Wellcome share price finished nursing a fall of 46p at 876p with brokers having gleaned the impression from the company that it had already achieved most of

tax profits surging almost one-third to £2.38 billion. The City gave a lukewarm response to full-year figures from Cadbury Schweppes, where Dominic Cadbury is chairman and David Wellings, chief executive, with the share falling 19p to 536p. These showed pre-tax profits 10 per cent higher at £526 million which included a £49 million

Amstrad slipped 2p to 207p after losing its place as a constituent of the FT-SE Mid-250 index. This follows the plunge in its share price from a peak of 294p in October. It could now lose the support of the index tracking funds, which brokers fear could further undermine the price.

the cost-savings anticipated after last year's merger.

BAT Industries lost 1p to 561p after Martin Broughton, chief executive, told brokers organic growth was becoming more difficult to obtain and he did not anticipate the group achieving the same level during the next few years. Last year's figures saw the benefits of its \$1 billion acquisition of American Tobacco with pre-

charge relating to the cost of restructuring Dr Pepper. There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel relating to claims for asbestos at T&N, the automotive parts group.

Further provisions of up to £50 million are envisaged for 1996 but Sir Colin Hope, chairman, is confident this will be followed by a gradual decline. Pre-tax profits last

year bounced back from the previous year's depressed level of £10.7 million to close at £120.1 million. Negative comments made to brokers after publication of full-year figures left Vickers 9p down on the day at 278p.

A profits warning left Faber Prest 133p down at 415p. The group said the expected upturn in volumes in the British steel industry had failed to materialise. In fact further de-stocking had taken place with crude steel production dropping 12 per cent between November and January.

As a result, pre-tax profits for the year to September, 1996, would fall short of the £8.2 million achieved last time. Brokers had been forecasting a final £8.5 million but are now looking for £7.25 million.

Speculative buying hoisted House of Fraser, the Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones stores group, 11p to 188p. On Wednesday, the troubled group sacked Andrew Jennings, managing director, leading to revived talk of a bid for the company. House of Fraser was quick to play down market speculation that Jennings would be replaced by David Dworkin, the former Storehouse boss.

In Business, the former United Breweries, returned from suspension 4p higher 52p. The shares were suspended on January 10, after announcing the acquisition of Marr Luns, the group now has a 27-strong pub chain.

GILT-EDGED: Investors remained in apprehensive mood before today's monthly economic meeting with prices fluctuating in thin trading. Most remain confident of a quarter-point cut in base rates to 6 per cent though such a move is already built into the price. Without any clear lead from German banks, prices in London closed mixed on the day.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt firmed a tick to £107 1/2 with the number of contracts totalling 50,000. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost a tick to £98 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed a tick to £103 3/4.

NEW YORK: Interest in shares waned on Wall Street after Tuesday's excitement and by midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 10.48 points lower at 5,631.94.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5631.94 (-10.48)
S&P Composite 653.99 (-1.53)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20241.18 (-57.31)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11378.73 (-75.39)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 518.23 (-0.95)

Sydney:
ASX 2201.1 (-6.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2466.04 (-12.99)

Singapore:
Straits 2429.74 (-2.64)

Brussels:
General 9229.61 (-14.33)

Paris:
CAC-40 3005.89 (-3.95)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 749.90 (-4.03)

London:
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TEMPUS

Just what the Dr ordered

CADBURY developed a taste for acquisitions last year which left some investors feeling a little queasy. At the time, the £1.6 billion purchase price of Dr Pepper/Seven-Up looked as rich as a Creme Egg.

Accusations that Cadbury's had overpaid were not borne out by yesterday's results. Dr Pepper produced an immediate return which Cadbury's said was worth around 2p of earnings, contrary to the company's earlier prediction that the impact of the acquisition on earnings would be broadly neutral. The American deal looked even sweeter given difficult conditions in the UK market which saw overall profits actually decline by 4 per cent last year.

In the circumstances this was not a bad performance. Cadbury benefited from a good balance in sales: while the hot summer hit

chocolate volumes, it also boosted sales of soft drinks. The company was a rare beneficiary of the National Lottery, with the profits generated from its involvement in Camelot outweighing a loss of sweet sales at non-lottery selling shops. Other pressures that hurt Cadbury last year are now easing, with raw material prices stabilising and Cadbury claiming a victory in the much hyped "cola wars".

The trading outlook looks healthy but Cadbury still carries the financial burden of the Dr Pepper acquisition. Gearing stands at 102 per cent, with interest cover at 5.6 times and dividend cover is also weak at 2.05 times. Added to that is the dilution from the proposed US share issue, all of which could slow the rate of dividend growth, hurting the share price in the short term.

Vickers

VICKERS is making a good living selling hi-tech toys to the wealthy. In motors, Rolls-Royce has learnt the dangers of brand devaluation and has returned to its vocation, cossetting the super-rich. Cosworth, the high-performance engine specialist, is capitalising upon its proprietary casting technology to win orders from Jaguar and Vauxhall.

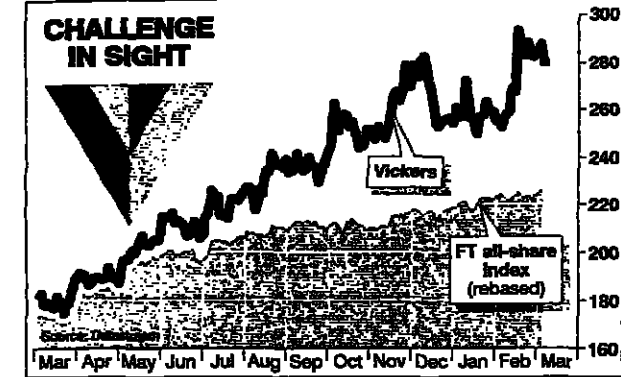
Big profit improvements from these activities are matched by acquisition-aided growth in the propulsion division. Products ranging from water jets for high-speed ferries to turbines for car turbochargers make the basis of a third leg for the Vickers group.

But it is defence, currently weak in profits, which carries the hopes and risks for the future. The gun on Vickers'

new heavy tank, the Challenger II, is occasionally thrown off target when the vehicle hits a big bump. The army is not impressed. Other prospective customers will be equally perturbed unless the glitch is quickly resolved.

Success in this regard would bring some bright order prospects. The Challenger II is competing with

the French Leclerc for a 150-tank Saudi contract. In Malaysia, Vickers' Mark 3 Czech T72s and Korea's M1 derivatives for a 150-tank contract. If Vickers achieves profits of £89 million this year, the shares, at 154 times earnings, are fairly valued with a punt on the Challenger thrown in for now.



BAT

HAVING chased BAT shares up on hopes it might demerger its financial services, or buy a building society, or both, the fickle stock market is now selling them because it is unlikely to do either.

BAT's non-tobacco businesses are looking dull, with the general insurance cycle in downward momentum and the life and pensions side taking an age to sort out its problems. Yesterday, BAT implicitly recognised that Allied has a disproportionately large share of the problem by adding £37 million to the pension mis-selling provision. BAT is streamlining the UK life insurance business now split between Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, but these are mature businesses and, if they are to hold their own, BAT needs to get better access to independent financial advisers who increasingly control the pensions market. More exciting would be a BAT

takeover of Hanson's Imperial Tobacco business. What drives the BAT share price is the rate of dividend growth, which is currently fuelled by tobacco sales.

Excluding the American Tobacco acquisition, cigarette sales grew by more than 11 per cent. Strong cash flow from exports may become more affected by expenditure on new plant as BAT begins to manufacture in emerging markets, but high single-digit growth in sales should keep dividends moving ahead strongly.

T&N

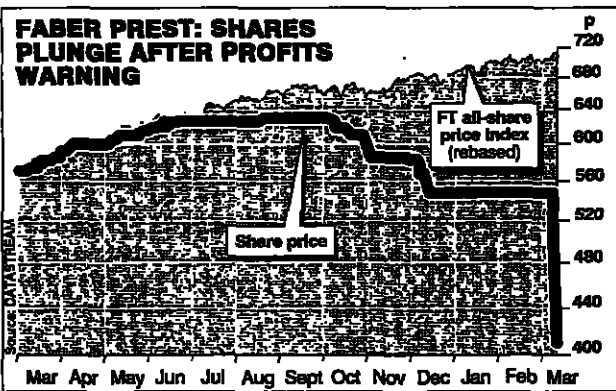
CASH flow is the critical question at T&N. A company that is paying out £100 million a year in damages claims cannot afford to ignore the pennies and last year the company made a sterling effort to put right its cash management. An embarrassing outflow of almost £85 million into working capital in the first six months was more than put

right in the second half after more vigorous management of stock and debtors, leaving T&N with net cash flow before investment of £160 million.

Unfortunately, T&N was not able to offer as much reassurance that the strategy would be similarly conservative. The company invested £152 million last year in the business, 1.5 times the rate of depreciation and although less expenditure is anticipated this year, the level will remain high.

T&N argues that technological change in the motor industry means that it must invest to stay on top. Investors would agree with the premise but might question whether the company is likely to earn its target of a 20 per cent return. Growth is slowing in the sector and it will be interesting to see whether T&N can deliver in this market an extra £30 million from last year's spending.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED



COMMODITIES									
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE									
COOBA									
Mar	885-877	May	903-902						
Jul	920-919	Sep	938-937						
Oct	926-925	Dec	938-937						
Jan	943-944	Mar	958-957						
Apr	964-963	Jun	980-979						
Aug	998-997	Oct	1014-1013						
Nov	1024-1023	Dec	1040-1039						
Jan	1050-1049	Mar	1066-1065						
Apr	1076-1075	Jun	1092-1091						
Aug	1102-1101	Oct	1118-1117						
Nov	1134-1133	Dec	1150-1149						
Jan	1166-1165	Mar	1182-1181						
Apr	1198-1197	Jun	1214-1213						
Aug	1230-1229	Oct	1246-1245						
Nov	1262-1261	Dec	1278-1277						
Jan	1294-1293	Mar	1310-1309						
Apr	1326-1325	Jun	1342-1341						
Aug	1358-1357	Oct	1374-1373						
Nov	1390-1389	Dec	1406-1405						
Jan	1422-1421	Mar	1438-1437						
Apr	1454-1453	Jun	1470-1469						
Aug	1486-1485	Oct	1502-1501						
Nov	1514-1513	Dec	1530-1529						
Jan	1546-1545	Mar	1562-1561						

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Orange plan squashed

The future's Orange — unless you live on the doorstep of the company's Darlington headquarters. Tony Klepper, a steward at a Darlington working men's club, was so impressed with Orange's claim that it covers 90 per cent of the country, that he wanted to be connected. "I thought they were joking when I got a letter telling me I couldn't join the network. They're only a mile from my home so I thought someone was winding me up. I simply couldn't believe it."

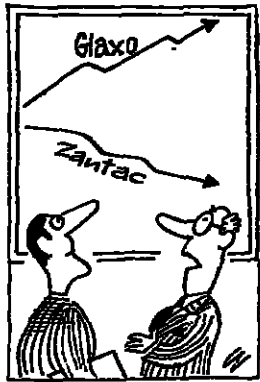
A spokesman for Hutchison Telecom — Darlington's biggest employer with 1,000 staff — said: "It's true — there are a few streets in Darlington which can't be connected." It's all to do with radio waves being obstructed by certain buildings, the would-be Orange man was told.

Warming to task

PTS, the central-heating group floated last March at 95p, was justifiably proud of its first annual results yesterday showing a 32 per cent profit leap to £2.26 million. The board is also proud of the Western regional director who, in 1985, used to get up at 4am to sweep his warehouse to save the cost of a cleaner. For your part in achieving more profit, thank you Les Profit.

Hair raising

NEVER challenge a NatWest Markets man. He is sure to take you on. Yesterday, at the close of trading in the gilt futures contract, index-linked trader Kevin Mountain, a PhD in applied mathematics, was short of his brown spiky locks at the office. Mountain rose to a colleague's challenge and raised £3,500 for Botton Village of Whitby, Yorkshire, which cares for those with Down's Syndrome. For the next few weeks, please don't ask for Hamish Lister when phoning NatWest Markets.



"Lower Zantac sales do nothing for my ulcers"

Up all night

IF THE top brass at mining group RTZ look bleary today when presenting 1995 results, here's why. It is the first presentation of the combined RTZ-CRA group and for fairness, results were issued simultaneously in Melbourne and London. That made it 3am London time today when fax machines began to chatter. If that and a 27-page announcement were not enough, spare a thought for directors Leon Davis and Christopher Bull. They flew Down Under to handle the Australia end of the video conference link with London. At noon in London, it's 11pm in Melbourne.

Old boys

TESCO and Bhs's fresh forays abroad and M&S's sale of a Canadian chain have a common link. Terry Leahy, chief executive-designate, Tesco, has just been elected Alumnus of the Year of Unist's Manchester School of Management. Keith Oates, deputy chairman, M&S, is the new president of the Unist Association. Keith Edelman, chief executive Bhs, is a former Unist student.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH

Cross-party courage needed if UK is to fulfil promise

Unemployment could fall even further without boosting inflation, but niggardly caution reigns

Kenneth Clarke must order another cut in base rates at today's monetary meeting if he is to be intellectually consistent. The Chancellor may annoy his right-wing colleagues with his advocacy of the single European currency but they may find themselves in a position to thank him for his other great enthusiasm.

Mr Clarke believes strongly that the Conservative supply-side reforms of the 1980s have permanently raised the rate at which the British economy can safely grow without reigniting inflation. He thought it a minor triumph that the Treasury mandarins were persuaded to lift their estimate of the economy's long-term sustainable growth rate from 2.25 per cent to 2.50 per cent, the number pencilled into November's Red Book. But, in his bones, Mr Clarke thinks that the true rate could be nearer 3 per cent. Surely the great Thatcherite programme of the 1980s yielded a little more than 0.25 per cent on the long-term growth potential of the British economy?

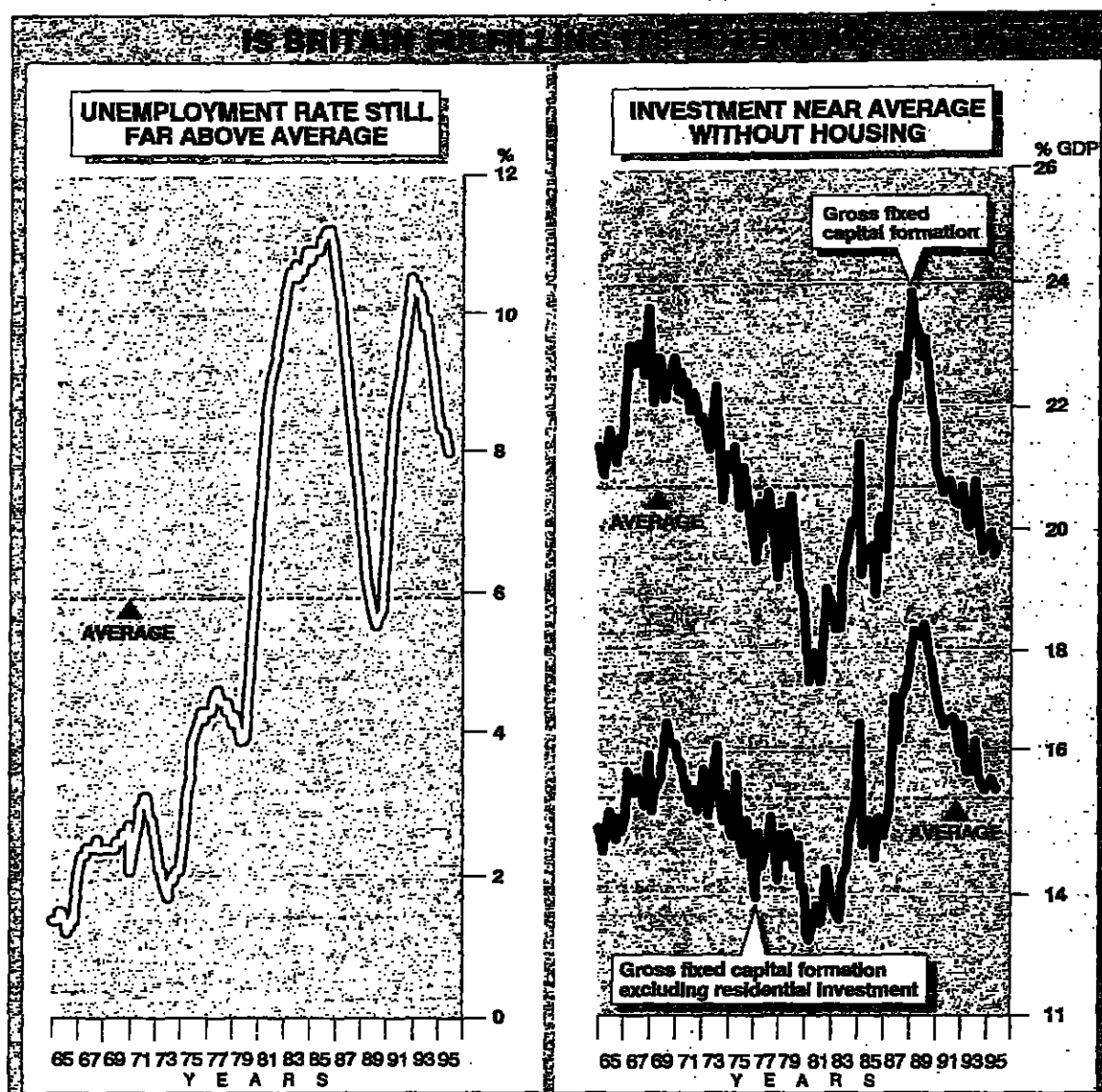
The implication of Mr Clarke's conviction is that he ought to cut rates again and again, first to return the economy to the 2.25 per cent growth path and then to a trajectory of somewhere between 2.5 and 3 per cent growth. If the Chancellor were to test his own theory by allowing himself to be genuinely bold on the interest rate front — and there are voices in the City calling for 5 per cent base rates — there would be a reasonable chance of some "feel-good" being around at election time and at least some of his detractors on the right might hang on to their seats.

But is Mr Clarke right? Looking at the investment side of the equation, there is no reason to think that the potential growth rate of the economy is any higher than it has been for the past 30 years. Neither, however, does there seem to be much firepower in the argument, perennially levelled at the Government by Labour, that low investment over the Conservative years has held Britain's growth potential down.

Gross fixed capital formation has run at an average of 20.8 per cent of gross domestic product since 1965. As of now, investment is running at around 19.8 per cent, about 1 per cent of GDP below the long-run average. But if residential property investment, (which of course has just been through a particularly extreme cycle) is stripped out, investment is actually a little above its long-term average.

Typical of the cautious view in the City, David Mackie, UK economist with J.P. Morgan, concludes that the Chancellor is being over-optimistic on Britain's growth potential and is therefore in danger of repeating the mistakes of the second half of the 1980s — albeit to a lesser extent — when Nigel Lawson overestimated the rate at which the economy could grow without igniting inflation.

Looking at the relationship between actual output and survey evidence of capacity usage and growth in the labour force, he estimates that manufacturing's growth potential is still around 2 per cent, the same as in the 1980s business cycle. The potential growth rate in services during the 1980s was reckoned to be around 2.5 per cent and he believes this is either unchanged or even a touch lower now.



So, the jury is out but probably weighing against Mr Clarke's optimism on the investment side of the debate. But there is another aspect of the current argument on Britain's growth potential which is squarely in the Chancellor's favour. This is the labour market. If the labour market has become far more competitive and flexible since the early 1980s, then the economy can grow rapidly for several more years before the Chancellor even has to start worrying about the trend rate of growth. The trend growth rate only becomes relevant once the economy is at full employment — or more precisely at the "natural rate of unemployment", which economists define as the level of unemployment needed to maintain stable prices. If today's unemployment is far above this natural rate, then the economy can grow faster than its trend rate for years without reigniting inflation. One of the positive surprises of this recovery has been the subdued response of wages both to renewed economic growth and sharp falls in unemployment. This has ignited a debate among economists about whether the natural rate of unemployment has fallen sharply because of the sweeping deregulation of the jobs market in the 1980s.

A seminar on the politics of full employment, hosted jointly this week by the Employment Policy Institute and the International Labour Office, was remarkable for the optimistic consensus reached on this point and for the fact that, even in this centre-left environment, Professor Patrick Minford's ultra-Thatcherite views appeared mainstream. Professor Minford argues that the level of

unemployment needed to maintain stable prices was between 2.5 and 3 million in 1980 but has dropped sharply to 1 million today, courtesy largely of the assault on trade union power and erosion of the value of benefits.

Economist Paul Ormerod agreed that something quite dramatic has changed: "The natural rate of unemployment has fallen substantially for the first time this century and this marks a very, very distinct break in the performance of the British labour market." The econometric model of the

National Institute for Economic and Social Research, which spewed out dire predictions of rampant inflation in the wake of sterling's post-ERM devaluation, was dismissed as being plain wrong. It will be interesting to see whether this model's reputation will recover in the longer-term having got its equations so wrong this time around. Nobody offered a concrete thought on where the natural rate now is — although Professor Minford has talked of a 2 per cent natural rate. Few share such optimism but it is highly likely that most views of where the natural rate might be are overly pessimistic. Experience in the United States has already shown that a combination of a flexible labour market and technological change can significantly push the natural rate lower. The Fed currently appears to believe that unemployment, at 5.6 per cent, is close to its natural rate. A few years ago, most people thought the natural rate was 7 per cent. In Britain, the average unemployment rate over the past 30 years is just under 6 per cent. We are currently seeing unem-

ployment at around 8 per cent. If supply-side changes in the labour market have been as important as many economic experts now suggest, one could argue with considerable weight that unemployment could safely drop to 6 per cent — and well below — without prompting higher inflation.

This would be potentially fantastic news for all of us but for the damaging cross-party consensus in favour of niggardly caution. The truth is that neither hypothesis about whether Britain's long-term growth potential is higher or its natural rate of unemployment lower is likely to be tested because both major parties are hung up on old inflationary fears.

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown often appear to be colluding with the Government in its determination to run the economy at well below its potential, playing safe at the expense of our living standards. Actual unemployment has been above any estimate of the natural rate for a decade or more. This is either proof that the very notion of a natural rate is balderdash, or compelling evidence that the economy is being run with a long-run bias towards deflation and that there is a chronic deficiency in demand.

Somewhat, this orthodoxy of defensive fiscal and monetary tightness must be broken. For Labour's part, perhaps it should acknowledge the positive trade-off between the flexible labour market and inflation, even if it doesn't approve of the social unease flexibility has undoubtedly created. How refreshing it would be if Labour applauded rate cuts instead of condemning them as a risk to inflation — there is something faintly silly when Labour talks like this. And if Mr Clarke is really so confident that his party's supply-side reforms have worked, then let him show some real conviction in monetary policy. There is something uncharacteristically wimpy in moving in ¼ points.

Let Mr Clarke show conviction — there is something wimpy in ¼-point cuts

BUSINESS LETTERS

Scale of Lloyd's disaster greater than imagined

From Mr Robin Borwick

Sir, Mr James Hartley (letters, March 1) suggests that "names losses should be capped at deposit level" and says that he (and many others) would vote for a settlement reasonably close to this. I fear he has very little concept of the scale of the disaster facing Lloyd's.

In February 1982, the manager of Lloyd's audit department received a letter signed on behalf of the biggest and most prestigious of Lloyd's panel auditors. This letter stated that the impossibility of determining liability for unquantifiable asbestos claims was a factor affecting the adequacy of reserves and asked for instructions. It must be presumed that the (then) chairman of Lloyd's was made aware of this.

At that time Lloyd's could have gone into run-off and Mr Hartley's solution might have been the answer. In fact, this letter was concealed from names and Lloyd's went into a campaign to recruit new names who, for a time, absorbed those losses which had not

been disclosed. I have been a member of Lloyd's for nearly 40 years, and I love it and its ideals.

Some few years ago I had to give instructions for a favourite horse (whom I had owned for 20 years) to be destroyed. I now feel the same about Lloyd's.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BORWICK,
Neptune House,
Newells Lane,
Bosham,
West Sussex.

It's time to be magnanimous

From Robert Hiscox

Sir, Mr Hartley (letters, March 1) says that working names need a settlement more than anybody (meaning any other names). Not so. Working names underwrite for names through an annual agency contract. If the names withdraw their capital (or have it withdrawn following Lloyd's ceasing to trade) they can underwrite for other capital. Working name brokers will

continue to be employed and can place their business elsewhere, perhaps with the recapitalised Lloyd's underwriters.

The biggest losers will be the names. In particular the action group names. The latter are currently being offered 70 per cent of £2.8 billion. If there is no settlement, they will have to rely on the courts to fight for around £500 million to £1 billion, a great amount of which has already been earmarked. If Lloyd's ceases to trade, all payment of claims will presumably be controlled by the liquidator and the ability of Action Groups to get any payment, whatever the Court awards, will be seriously impaired.

The action group leaders have won a great victory in the offer to names of £2.8 billion. They should be magnanimous in victory and negotiate reasonable terms of surrender rather than continue to fight to destroy what is left.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HISCOX,
Hiscox Holdings Ltd,
52 Leadenhall Street,
EC3.

Amec investors took long view

From M. J. Matthews

Sir, I was frustrated to read the comment in *Permitting* that Amec "inexplicably shook off the embrace" of Kvaerner, the Norwegian contractor, which has made an agreed bid for Trafalgar.

My understanding was that the earlier bid for Amec was defeated because small shareholders, like myself, remained loyal to the Amec management and saw no need to sell the company cheaply to satisfy an opportunistic bid from Kvaerner.

We perceived that Amec, with an increasingly international spread, deserved to keep its independence. In effect, we took the long view.

It's a great pity that the majority of journalists do not appear to take this stance — they exist for today's pungent remark and then move on!

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MATTHEWS,
11 Caxton Lane,
Foxton,
Cambridge.

Why British Gas needs an independent outsider

Noel Falconer, who is standing for election to the board, puts his case

British Gas is in terrible trouble. It has contracted to buy immense amounts of gas — £2,000 worth for every customer — at more than twice the current price. Its pipelines, that this was to supply, have been ended. There are neither escape clauses nor provisions for renegotiation, and no redress at law. Losses could total £3 billion. The reserves to cover these have been frittered away: dividends exceeded profits in each of the past four years.

How can it survive? First, it must correct the mistake that let these "take-or-pay" contracts pass unchallenged. First, because they typically engendered worse. Nick Larson, broke Barings in his panic to recover initial losses that did not begin to imperil the bank. Right now is the moment vigilance is most necessary.

The non-executive directors should have spotted the vulnerability before damage occurred. This was not difficult: the situation had only to be stated for its hazards to become blatant. These hugely talented people failed nonetheless. They were too busy — as busy as the seven present incumbents, who head 18 concerns, including Unilever

and not eliminated. Drawing that outside non-executive director from among them would be a gesture, but wise and welcome withal.

What matters, however, is the mitigation of those ruinous contracts. The worst quarter is in-house, with its exploration and production subsidiary. Closing down fields, leaving that gas where it is until it can be sold profitably, is entirely feasible. This would eliminate the oversupply and raise the price, in return for compensation from British Gas to British Gas, for moving money from one British Gas account to another. More real penalties are that it would necessitate redundancies, infuriate the customers who had to pay more, and the Government, cause problems with the regulator, and savage the cash flow. These render a shutdown unacceptable if there is an alternative.

British Gas suggests that it demerge. This ignores the reconstruction in progress, at a cost of £1.65 billion and 2,500 jobs. If this is working it should not be disturbed; if not, we need to know what is wrong so we can avoid a repetition.

The original, cynical scheme would have demerged the disastrous contracts with the supply business into a separate company that, albeit crippled, would supply too many customers to be allowed to die, forcing the Government to rescue it, with taxpayers' money or by authorising a substantial price increase. Its shares would be rendered valueless; but the rest of British Gas would be trading unimpeded, potentially sufficiently profitably to compensate.

The Government insists that the Morecambe Bay fields go with the "take-or-pay" commitments. Halting their production then ceases to be feasible, causing the losses to continue unabated. A distress sale of the fields becomes likely, with continuing production that would continue to drive down gas prices; while the rump, deprived of its prime assets, grew slowly if at all. The demerger scheme has been emasculated.

The least-bad strategy appears to be that British Gas suspend its own production to mitigate its punishment; but otherwise to accept this, and not aggravate it in futile endeavours to avoid what is inevitable — and deserved. Small shareholders have required, under the Companies Act 1985 section 376, that the motion "that Noel Falconer be appointed a director of British Gas" be considered at the AGM on April 30 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Falconer, courting Sids

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Rolls-Royce drives 67% acceleration at Vickers

By Ross Tyeman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RISING sales of tailor-made Rolls-Royce cars and a racing performance from Cosworth engines helped to drive Vickers' profits up 67 per cent to £75 million in the year to end-December.

The improvement came with a 57 per cent surge in sales, to £1.14 billion, as production of Challenger 11 tanks for the British Army got into full swing.

Some 50 Challenger 11s have been delivered, lifting defence turnover almost threefold, to £354 million. But work on the £1.5 billion, 384-tank order has been held back by systems integration problems that cause the turret's target tracking to fail sporadically without warning.

Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive, said it was "not a big issue" — the system otherwise worked well and would be "de-bugged" without need for financial provisions. But caution over taking profit on the contract, and an 18-tank order from Oman, held back



Sir Colin Chandler hopes to revive the group's baby incubator business

defence profits to £15.9 million, up from £12.7 million.

Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars rose 10 per cent, to 1,556, while a combination of customised models and rising sales of aluminium engine castings produced by Cosworth's patent process al-

most doubled automotive profits, to £40.9 million.

With net cash of £22 million, Vickers is looking for bolt-on acquisitions to its propulsion business. It wants to lift sales, up 48 per cent to £238 million last year, into line with cars and defence.

New management has been ordered to sought out the long-ailing baby incubator arm, while Riva, the power boat business, still struggles to break even. A final dividend of 4.3p, payable on May 3, makes 6.7p, up 41 per cent. *Tempus, page 26*

Cape lifts profits to £11.5m

Cape, the manufacturer of insulation and building products, reported pre-tax profits of £11.5 million for the year to December 31 (£9.1 million for the nine months to December 31, 1994).

The total dividend for 1995 is 11p a share, with an 8p final (5.25p for nine months).

GP cash call

Guinness Peat Group, the financial services group, is raising £15.3 million through a rights issue of one new share for every ten held at 30p each. There will also be a one-for-ten bonus issue. The company reported a rise in profits to £21.4 million before tax from £8.4 million. There is a dividend of 0.20p (nil).

PTS higher

PTS Group, which distributes domestic central heating and sanitaryware, reported a 32 per cent rise in profits to £2.26 million before tax in the 12 months to December 31, its first full year since flotation. Earnings rose to 7.8p a share from 6.8p. There is a final dividend of 2.4p a share, due May 8, for a total 3.6p (2.2p).

Merivale up

Merivale Moore, the commercial property investment and trading company, is increasing the interim dividend to 1.5p a share from 1.25p after a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.03 million from £852,000 in the six months ended December 31.

ACCOUNTANCY

Big business dispels recruitment fears

By David Melville



Alan McNab, second right, Cima president, with, from left, Bill Connell (BOC), Graham Mottram and Sam Smith

BIG companies are understandably suspicious about their chances of finding through the job columns the young high-flyers they need to bolster their management teams. However, many choose that route — and some live to regret it because they do not wish to devote time and effort to organising their own in-house training.

With its latest annual training award, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima) has brought into focus the fact that in-house training by big businesses can be highly successful.

Rolls-Royce BOC Group and the Post Office have been named joint winners of the Cima National Training Award this year. Apparently the judges could not slide a cigarette paper between the three contenders.

Interestingly, the winners are in very different business sectors. Yet the broad-based Cima training syllabus and training system for management accountancy is proving sufficiently robust to cater for the disparate needs of all the three businesses.

Since the 1980s, the three winners have been recruiting and training young men and women to gain the Cima qualification. They have been producing "home grown" young financial managers — people who by their mid-twenties can begin climbing the long and slippery ladder towards the boardroom.

The three companies have in common a system of sending recruits on a three-year journey of discovery through as many different departments of the business as possible. Often they will spend up to six months in a section carrying out a specific project. Meanwhile, they study in their spare time for the Cima qualification and are given up to 40 days a

year by the firm for full-time study and exams.

Pay rates vary between the companies. Broadly speaking, a graduate will start the Cima route at between £13,500 and £16,000 a year and can expect to earn up to £32,000 a year on qualifying in their mid-twenties. The Post Office is the biggest employer of the three and the only one to run all its Cima training in-house. Students on the Post Office's corporate accounting training scheme have become known as the "cats". More than 80 have gone through the scheme and more than 20 are in training.

The effect upon the Post Office financial management structure of a stream of newly-qualified chartered management accountants has been considerable. Of 350 qualified accountants now employed by the Post Office, 230 are Cima qualified; and of 250 accountancy students in the business, 200 are Cima students.

Raj Pradhan of BOC says his company started its Cima scheme in the late 1980s because recruiting in the open market was failing to meet the company's requirements. "The salaries demanded were too high, and the quality of applicants not good enough," he said. BOC now recruits three or four graduates a year for the Cima course and looks initially for

competence rather than specific university qualifications.

At Rolls-Royce Aerospace, a young graduate on the Cima course stands a chance of working with the elite Trent engine team for part of the training period. There are four on the project at the moment. The Trent is the world's most powerful aircraft engine.

"We offer them an exciting training schedule," says Graham Mottram, financial controller of the Trent project. Rolls-Royce chooses four students a year from 200 applicants.

The three award winners say they are getting what they want from the Cima-trained business accountants who will identify with the workday aspects of the business. Company loyalty has also emerged as an important positive factor. After qualifying, more than 80 per cent of the Cima students remain with their businesses in a management post.

Sam Smith, who runs the Post Office accountancy training, said of the Cima scheme: "It is perceived here as the most appropriate qualification for a commercial environment."

David Melville is chairman of the Education and Training Committee of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Emap buys French consumer titles

EMAP, the media and publishing group, greatly expanded its French presence yesterday with the purchase of *Top Santé*, and *Télé Star*, two leading consumer titles, for £181 million (Eric Reguly writes).

The magazines were bought from CLT, the Luxembourg media group that controls the Country 103.8 and Talk radio stations in Britain. CLT has been building

up its television interests in Germany and in the low countries.

Top Santé, a women's health and beauty magazine, has a circulation of 687,000 in France and Belgium. *Télé Star*, a TV listings magazine, has more than two million. Emap is also acquiring *Télé Star Jeux*, a puzzle magazine with a circulation of 216,000, plus 51 per cent of

the British edition of *Top Santé* and 40 per cent of the Dutch edition.

BSkyB, the satellite TV company that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, confirmed talks with CLT about launching a digital TV service in Europe. BSkyB said the talks were preliminary and unlikely to result in a deal in the near future.



1995 RESULTS

"Cadbury Schweppes' sales increased 19% in 1995 and the acquisition of Dr Pepper/Seven-Up transformed our global soft drinks position. Pre-tax profit increased 17% on an adjusted basis.

	Reported			Adjusted*	
	1995	1994	% Change	1995	% Change
	£m	£m		£m	
Sales	4,776	4,030	+19	4,776	+19
Trading Profit	600	504	+19	649	+29
Pre-tax Profit	526	478	+10	561	+17
	Pence	Pence		Pence	
Earnings per Share†	31.3	30.2	+3.6	32.8	+8.5
Dividend per Share†	16.0	15.0	+6.7		

*1995 figures adjusted to exclude acquisition related restructuring costs of £49m and profit on disposals of £14m.

†1994 comparative figures re-stated for rights issue/UESDA.

Adjusted earnings per share rose 8.5% and the proposed annual dividend for 1995 of 16.0 pence shows an increase of 6.7%.

Dr Pepper/Seven-Up's contribution exceeded expectations and confectionery acquisitions brought market leadership in Canada. Base business momentum was maintained with volume +5% in beverages and +2% in confectionery. Profit growth was achieved despite significant cost pressures. Global investment in new markets was accelerated while in the UK CCSB benefited from a hot summer and Cadbury UK gained market share.

I am confident that the strategic moves we are making are right for this business. We have shown that we can balance the need for current earnings and dividend growth while laying down the basis for future development. We have made a sound start to the year and I have confidence that we will make further progress in 1996."

Dominic Cadbury
Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE

Europe ready for the pragmatic approach

A FEW years ago, the threat of European legislation was the most feared of all the accountancy profession's long-term doom-day scenarios. Accountants in London would glumly predict that rules from Brussels would strangle the profession's great economic freedoms. A return to the status of pedantic book-keepers was predicted.

All this overlooked two things. First, the different attitude towards legislation in this country compared with Europe. Many European countries introduced legislation to bar audit firms from selling consultancy services to their audit clients. It was felt that knowing consultancy fees were also on the line could harm the independence of the auditor's view.

Had such a rule been introduced in this country it would have been policed rigorously — that is the English way.

But on the Continent it was very different. In short, if the rules made no sense, then they were ignored. But the English, as ever, preferred to think they were doomed.

The second reason why it would not come to pass is simply that of practicality. With a single market there was no possibility that Europe's complex and very different laws could be steamrollered into one set of universal rules.

This summer, the issues of audit regulation and corporate governance in Europe will be back on the agenda. But times have changed. The likelihood is that pragmatism will win the day. The European Commission should have its own research ready this month and hopes to produce a Green Paper by June.

In the meantime, to provide early background for the debate, Fee, the European accounting body, has published its summary of the issues involved. Called *The Role, Position and Liability of the Statutory Auditors in the European Union*, it covers the ground admirably. The project was run by David Darbyshire, the Fee vice-president, and the key section comes early on.

Having discussed the differences between

the member states' systems, it says that the concepts of subsidiarity and proportionality must be respected. "Uniformity is not an objective," it says, "and due regard should be paid to the positive features of member states' existing systems for corporate governance and the regulations of audit."

Or as Fee's secretary-general put it to me last week: "The wave is with us this time." The areas of tension have diminished. The Commission has generally become much less aggressive on legislation. There is now a new acceptance that one size does not fit all.

The signs were already plain last year when it backed down over the idea of creating separate European accounting standards. From now on the aim is to go with the mainstream if good and sensible work has

already been done elsewhere. It is to be hoped that the same policy will triumph when it comes to deciding how to harmonise auditing standards as well.

The long debate over the sale of audit and consultancy services is drawing to a close. It is the practicalities of business which have won. The legislators now understand that there are synergies between audit and other services.

But even more telling has been the growing realisation of how important the small and medium-sized enterprises sector is to most European countries, and the political realisation that it would be impossible to tell

the sector that it must incur twice the cost by having both an auditor and adviser.

The key to all this has been the rise of corporate governance as the main topic of the day. Audit is seen as central to the corporate governance process, so people have suddenly started learning what an audit can provide. There is a chance that aggravation could turn into admiration. All this sensible thought may unravel later. But it looks as though the changes ahead in Europe are to be based in future on how the system works rather than a desire to batter it into another shape.



ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Registering some dismay

IT IS remarkable the tangles in which the accountancy bodies can find themselves when they try to bring openness to their proceedings. This week, the English ICA considered compiling a public register of its council members' interests. It decided that such a thing "should not be introduced at the present time".

It had obviously learnt from the experience of the certified accountants. No sooner had they announced the existence of such a register than the indefatigable Professor Prem Sikka turned up to

have a look. Needless to say, it proved unavailable.

Man of letters

SIKKA'S correspondence with the secretariat of the certified accountants is boosting Post Office profits. His latest attempt at election to the council elicited a letter saying that candidates had to agree to a code of conduct barring members from saying anything in public "at variance" to the council's position. Further correspondence has ensued.

Secret service

THE English ICA was pondering codes of confidential-

ity this week. But you can take secrecy too far. One section of its report said members should be "mindful of the advice on confidentiality set out in Attachment 2 to Annex B". It followed on with: "[not attached here]."

Ethical blunder

EMBARRASSMENT for the English ICA over its own auditor. Under its ethical guidance, "an auditor's tenure of office shall not exceed seven years". But the gentlemen concerned have done it for far longer. So this year the institute intends to appoint the firms in which they are partners, and then put the audit out to tender.

UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]



■ FILM 1

Wigs abound, but the story goes cold in an adaptation of Rose Tremain's *Restoration*



■ FILM 2

Emir Kusturica's *Underground* weaves a quirky fantasy out of half a century of Balkan history

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

Ruth Rendell provides Claude Chabrol with the plot of *La Cérémonie*, his best film in years



■ TOMORROW

Holly Johnson on mounting an exhibition of his own art; plus reviews of the new pop albums

CINEMA: Robert Downey Jr progresses from rake to hero in *Restoration*. Geoff Brown is not impressed

No fireworks from a prig in a wig

Increasingly, characters in the movies have two modes of dress. They wear tattoos, sweat-shirts, and machineguns. Or they flaunt riding boots, plumed hats and beauty spots. The latter fashion reaches a peak in *Restoration*. Hugh Grant — don't worry, his part is small — goes about with two beauty spots neatly sprinkled among lipstick and rouge. Robert Downey Jr, the picture's hero, sports an impossible array of feathery hats, cascading periwigs and broad-crowned tunics outshone only by the wardrobe of Charles II (Sam Neill).

On the face of things, a movie could not fly further from current reality, or the nightmare of a film such as *Strange Days*. Yet the American director of *Restoration*, Michael Hoffman (his last film was *Soapdish*), still claims contemporary resonances to the story embedded in Rose Tremain's novel.

He is right, in some senses. Downey's physician, Robert Merivel, experiences ambition and greed and the vicious gulf between rich and poor in his journey through Charles II's reign: characteristics all visible in society today. In the realm of medicine, scientific inquiry is ousting old superstitions; new technology is on the march. And any character played by Downey has an ease, a cockiness, that appears modern: this is all part of the man's appeal.

In other ways, *Restoration* is thunderingly old-fashioned, and this affects its hold on audiences. At first Merivel is portrayed as a gifted physician who loses his way at Court: he serves the King as a "paper bridegroom" (the nominal husband of the Royal Mistress), and indulges his tastes in wine, women and song. So far so good, although Rupert Walters's script could have greater bite, and Hoffman could make it easier to separate people from props.

But then the rake gets his boring conscience. The Royal favour is removed when Downey takes his marital duties with Polly Walker too seriously. Opulence vanishes. Enter grinding poverty, rain and mud. Falling in with David Thewlis at a Quaker asylum, Downey helps an Irish girl (Meg Ryan, no less) take steps towards sanity. He returns to town in 1665, just in time to do further good deeds

Restoration
Odeon West End
15, 118 mins
Costume spectacular
loses its way

Underground
Lumiere, 15, 167 mins
Exhausting epic about
the warring Balkans

La Cérémonie
MGM Haymarket
15, 112 mins
Claude Chabrol
bounces back

during the bubonic plague and the Great Fire of London. But who wants to see a rake reformed? The devil has all the best tunes, and once they've been played, *Restoration* heads down a cul-de-sac. Ryan's participation is brief and none too effective, except as window-dressing for punters. Grant, who made his debut in Hoffman and Walters's undergraduate melodrama *Privileged*, equally comes and goes as a conniving portrait painter.

The main players do their stuff well, while production designer Eugenio Zanetti, costume designer James Acheson and cameraman Oliver Stapleton work hard to suggest a far larger budget than the \$15 million actually bequeathed by Miramax. You begin the film gawping in awe. Then the story grows dumb, and you shrug your shoulders.

Overkill is not a disease confined to cinema's mainstream. Look at Emir Kusturica's comedy epic about the Balkans, *Underground*, the top prizewinner at Cannes last year, filmed in Prague, Belgrade and Bulgaria. At two hours and 27 minutes, it now runs 25 minutes less than it did. But, in his first European project after a period in America, Kusturica still rambles over the screen, blasting eyes and ears, rarely letting a subtle hint pass when a hammer blow will do.

The opening promises a splendid time. It is 1941, in Belgrade. A band, full of raucous compah, gallops through the streets. The festive mood stops abruptly when German bombs rain down during feeding time at the zoo. Surreal carnage follows. Animals roam among ruined buildings. This is confident, marvellous image-making.



The news travels like fire from Pudding Lane that even the special effects cannot prevent Michael Hoffman's *Restoration* being a bit of a damp squib

Stories and characters are then set up. Two friends, Marko and Blacky, thrive as black marketeers under Nazi rule. There is Natalija, the actress for whom both have eyes, although a Nazi officer wins the prize.

Time marches on: Marko (Mikio Manojlovic) confines the injured Blacky to the underground retreat where resistance workers manufacture arms, while seducing Natalija (Mirjana Jokovic) above ground. The war ends and Tito takes control of the country, but Marko keeps this a secret from the minions in their cellar: he enjoys the profits too much to change.

Kusturica, too, keeps his own war going, pushing hard, never letting performers ease up or quiet reign on the soundtrack. You could accept this barrage with more equa-

nimity if the visual imagination did not often suggest third-rate Fellini; or if the film did not belabour the central conceit of Tito's Yugoslavia living a lie fed by fear, propaganda and a siege mentality.

When the deluded partisans finally rediscover a world beyond their underground kingdom — an impressive design feat by Miljen "Kreka" Kijakovic — illusion still rules. They land on the set of a patriotic war film; and the absurdity continues as Kusturica takes his characters, tricksters, idealists and all, into the present Balkan chaos. Kusturica was born in Sarajevo, in 1955, and the film's refusal to condemn Serbian aggression brought vociferous complaints that stung the director into announcing his withdrawal from film-making (he has since withdrawn his

withdrawal). But the problem of *Underground* lies not in any partisan slant, but in its simplistic, unvarying approach. Certainly war needs to be waged against war, but Kusturica's blunderbuss of a film is not the most effective weapon.

These days you never know what to expect from Claude Chabrol: something unwatchable, or something with a distant echo of his great films of the late Sixties and Seventies? *La Cérémonie*, however, fits neither category, for it blends humour, menace and a rigorous observation in a manner so confident that you soon realise that you are watching Chabrol's best film in years.

The material is English — Ruth Rendell's novel *A Judgment in Stone* — but Chabrol transfers its characters to con-

temporary, wind-swept Brittany. He clearly feels completely at home with the class barriers, resentments and secrets that govern the well-heeled Lelièvre family and Sophie, their new housekeeper.

Sophie (Sandrine Bonnaire) is a mystery. She does her work, then watches TV. She talks little; to most questions she answers: "I don't know". To her employers' disavowal, she strikes up a friendship with Jeanne, the insolent village postmistress played by Isabelle Huppert, the kind of person who gaily enters a house by the window and possibly opens M. Lelièvre's mail. The two misfits spark each other off, and the sparks produce a violent explosion.

As of old, Chabrol reveals an eager eye for the minute details of social status and domestic routine. Key scenes

revolve round the consumption of meals and the watching of TV: the Lelièvres prefer *Don Giovanni*, while Sophie basks in trashy game shows.

Characterisation is vital to *La Cérémonie*: for Chabrol, as for Rendell, the big question is not whodunnit, but why. Luckily, the players never put a foot wrong. As Sophie, Bonnaire exploits her special gift for suggesting and tantalising through the slightest look, while Huppert is delightfully perky, gum in mouth, saucy red hat perched on her head.

On the other side of the class divide, Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Pierre Cassel pleasantly avoid caricature as the comfortable couple who pride themselves a little too prematurely on their perfect home help. A crisp, chilly and satisfying film.

WITH the millennium fast approaching, bearing carloads of audio and videotape through which we shall be obliged to revisit this century and peer into the next, a mere half-century is going to have to take its chances where it can.

Therefore the 1950s retrospective has arrived halfway through the 1990s, a necessarily premature commemoration for a decade which has undoubtedly been at once the most grim and the most promising of my lifetime.

The Fifties, a season on Radio 3, had two programmes on Monday night that demonstrated how radio's better moments often take conventional pegs and hang some original clothing on them.

Both programmes had memoirs at their centre, one real and one fictional. The first, of the three-part *In The Fifties* featured Ronald Pickup reading the memoirs of Peter Vansittart, a former London teacher.

In The Fifties aims to focus on the shifting postwar relationships between adults and children, and this one featured the rise of the Teddy Boys and the emergence of youth culture, idols such as James Dean.

I felt that Vansittart gave insufficient weight to the coming of rock'n'roll, which surely, and for the first time, offered young people an outlet for self-expression which wholly excluded their parents. Monday's other contribution to the season was a drama-documentary, *The Quatermass Memoirs*. Professor Bernard Quatermass, the fictional creation of Nigel Kneale, was many a young person's introduction to science fiction and horror through the film *Quatermass and the Pit*.

The drama aspect of this series has Quatermass retired to Scotland to write his memoirs, only to be rudely interrupted by a journalist. Kneale intercuts the drama with his own exposition of *Quatermass* and reflections on an idealised view of what a scientist was, a man "with a sense of awe at the magnitude of what he might discover".

In some senses, *Quatermass* fed the fears that were rampant in the 1950s, although, as Neale says, this was hardly paranoia — it was a "rational fear... in an atmosphere of Cold War and H-bomb".

PETER BARNARD

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SNAP VERDICT

Every week on Moviewatch young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from Carlisle...

UNDERGROUND
Angela Tyson, 19: You cannot put this film across as the history of Yugoslavia for the past 50 years, because it doesn't show that much. It is one of the funniest things I've seen in a long while. You never got bored. He mixed the serious and the funny so well. Paul Thompson, 18: I thought: three-hour Yugoslavian film, sounds good — not. But I really enjoyed it. It was a laugh. Anne Clayton, 21: Totally mad but really good. Paul Reid, 22: Really bizarre: swinging off chandeliers, hitting each other with bottles — you've never seen anything like it. I laughed my head off all the way through.

LA CEREMONIE
Angela: When it began, with a sinister plot and characters, I thought: "Oh, a good thriller coming on." But it carried on the same for an hour. The music made you think that something dramatic would happen, but it never did. Paul T: I don't like subtitles, and this was so lame: two French birds talking about nothing. Anne: It was a bit slow at first, but the characters were really good. I quite liked it. Paul R: Not bad, not good. The plot held me, but I wished it would get to the point.

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OPERA 1

After initial chaos, Welsh National Opera dusts off *Cav* and *Pag* in lively style



OPERA 2

... while a sumptuous Paris staging of *Don Carlos* shows international opera at its best

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 3

... and a staged version of Schubert's song-cycle, *Die Winterreise*, comes to Hammersmith



JAZZ

Annie Ross displays the subtle side to her lyrical art in a London residency

JAZZ

In a Holiday mood

TWO different aspects of Annie Ross, story-teller, can be sampled at the moment. One of them is to be found in *Wishing On The Moon*, a leisurely "audiobook" reworking, with vintage music as an added attraction, of Donald Clarke's biography of Billie Holiday.

Ross, who knew the singer in her final years, brings a measure of unsentimental insider knowledge to her narration, transporting the listener to the day when, as a new comer to Harlem's Apollo Theatre, she filled in for an indisposed Lady Day.

Her experience as an actress — which brought her a prime role in Robert Altman's film *Short Cuts* — stands her in good stead on the readings. At

Annie Ross Pizza on the Park

Pizza on the Park, where she has just started a four-week residency, that same gift is very much in evidence. No longer the laser-guided diva of her days with Lambert, Hendricks & Ross, she negotiated the evening — and overcame the effects of a head cold — with a mixture of guile and careful attention to the subtleties of a lyric.

While there is no avoiding the fact that her vocal range has narrowed, her emotional compass remains as broad as it was in her youth. She sprang surprises, too, by approaching many of the more familiar standards, including *It Had To Be You*, through her verses, a route that few singers care to explore. Rodgers and Hart's *It Never Entered My Mind* received a brief and no less unconventional reading.

Supported by Colin Purbrook at the piano, Jack Parnell on drums and Andy Cleynert on bass, Ross had opened at a brisk, uncompromising tempo with *There'll Be Some Changes Made*. Later, between ballads, she made a point of plunging into the healing waters of the blues at regular intervals. Once refreshed, the voice flamed almost as brightly as that incandescent red hair.

CLIVE DAVIS

OPERA: A blissful evening with two warhorses in Wales; Carlos, heir of sorrows and solitude, triumphant in Paris



Elijah Moshinsky's thrilling new production of *Pagliacci* for Welsh National Opera updates the action to the era of Italian neo-realist cinema

Two reasons to celebrate

THE Welsh National Opera's birthday production of the double-bill that launched the company 50 years ago could not have got off to a worse start. A berserk surtitle machine developed a mind of its own, endlessly repeated the words "no errors detected" — the most earnest practitioner of Theatre of the Absurd could not improve on that — and then made interesting but not entirely relevant remarks about Portugal before producing screenfuls of gobbledegook.

As the audience fell about laughing, a bemused Carlo Rizzi obligingly started the Prelude again, but it took five minutes and three members of management storming out of the auditorium before the machine could be switched off. Happy end, in that the audience spent a blissful evening actively listening to the performance rather than passively reading it.

And a pretty blissful evening it was. Hoarier of old warhorses *Cav* and *Pag* may be, but they have not been heard

here for nearly a decade, and it was nice to be reminded of how good they are. Mascagni's a bubbling valfuf of human emotion composed straight from the gut, Leoncavallo's more "arty", pretentious even, but at a theatrical level absolutely fail-safe. And it was good to re-encounter them so freshly performed.

Rizzi conducted them as though they had been composed last week, phrasing the big tunes with real insight — even the *Cav* intermezzo sounded new and interesting — and drawing clear, fat sound from the orchestra. There was no pussy-footing, no "art", just feeling, feeling and more feeling. The chorus, *raison d'être* of the company in 1946 if not now, was in top form.

Fresh may not be quite the word for Elijah Moshinsky's productions in

Cavalleria rusticana/ Pagliacci New Theatre, Cardiff

with picturesque costumes, a shady street, easy manipulation of crowds, yet every cliché in the book — nuns, choirboys, merry peasants, a chap shaving with a rag dangling from his lips — was made to look, yes, fresh.

Pag was updated to the era of Italian neo-realist cinema: posters for *Bitter Rice* adorned the sports ground into which the players drove their battered old truck. I wondered only about an extra half-dozen clowns, who tended to dilute the impact of the central action. And what precisely were this Nedda and Silvio? She already had an unsatisfactory husband. Did she really need another slot? What sort of escape did either offer the other? The tragedy was blunted. But the build-up of tension, the stage audience's gradual realisation that something was going

wrong, worked thrillingly. The piece can't fail.

There were many fine all-round performances. Dennis O'Neill's Turiddu, a small-town heel with jaunty hat and oily manner, turned first nasty and then pathetic with real conviction; his Canio, equally strongly sung (could *Vesti la giubba* take a little more light and shade?), duly wrung the right wipers, and his clown make-up was creepily grotesque.

Anne-Marie Owens, in fabulous voice, felt and conveyed every ounce of Santuzza's agony. Peter Sidhom successfully fought a throat infection as Alfio and Tonio. Menai Davies (Mamma Lucia), Anthony Mee (Beppe), just fine. In a way we all knew that this well-chosen cast would deliver the goods, but I was unprepared for the impact of Rosalind Sutherland's Nedda: ringing, vibrant *spinto* soprano tone, confidently and broadly phrased. In a word, sensational.

RODNEY MILNES

Singers shine in dark setting

Don Carlos Châtelet, Paris

VERDI's *Don Carlos*, which has just opened at the Châtelet, is international opera close to its finest. Sumptuously cast, staged with imagination and severity by Luc Bondy, it moves with some changes of personnel to Covent Garden in June, as well as on to Brussels and Lyons. Book now, wherever you may be.

Bondy opts for the lengthy five-act French version and includes several pages generally cut from the score. The most notable restoration is the *Lacrymosa* for Carlos, King Philippe II and chorus over the corpse of Posa, faithful friend to both men. The shots which a few minutes earlier rang through the Châtelet may also have killed off those in the audience of nervous disposition.

The opening Fontainebleau act has echoes of Visconti's unforgettable Covent Garden staging. Elisabeth and Carlos meet furtively amid the bare trunks of a snowy forest, with the palace lights showing in the distance. Eventually she rides off on a white charger to meet her unwanted future husband. Thereafter all visual decoration is out.

Moielle Bickel dresses the Spanish court almost entirely in black. Gilles Aillaud's spare and spacious sets give Bondy room to show his principals in their isolation, an effect used in his famous *Salome* production. Separation and loneliness are among the many themes of *Carlos* and by emphasising them, Bondy makes the few interludes of emotional rapport all the more searing.

Those moments centre mainly on Roberto Alagna's Carlos. At times he is a wail, desperate for support, as when he collapses in Elisabeth's arms in the Act II duet. At others he is the king's son and believer in brave causes. Alagna shows what a fine Verdi tenor he is becoming, with clarion sound and tender note-spinning both at his command.

Elisabeth is sung by Karita Mattila, on top form once some cloudiness had cleared from her voice during the Fontainebleau snow. She is

cool and resigned, all too aware of the emptiness of regal splendours.

As Posa, Thomas Hampson bids fair to announce himself as the world's leading Verdi baritone. The Friendship Duet fairly surged through the house. The only Posa poser was why he should have been decked with a straggly mane of shoulder-length hair more suitable for a Newbury bypass protester.

Jose van Dam took time to establish Philippe. His small stature and stubbly beard made him look more like a choleric prelate than a gloomy monarch. But all came well in the study scene and *Elle me n'aime pas*. Van Dam knows how to weight a piece of this length and intensity, although Bondy's decision to open it with a vision of Elisabeth asleep in a lonely bed was one of the few questionable aspects



Roberto Alagna as Carlos, Karita Mattila as Elisabeth

of the staging. Eric Halfonson's Grand Inquisitor, in Franciscan habit, made his entry through hellfire flames flashing across the stage. Doubled up over two sticks, he looked like a malignant spider crab, or perhaps one of those brothers from *The Name of the Rose*. The voice, spelt doom.

The one weakness is Waltraud Meier's shrill and overplayed Eboli, whose mezzo plays angrily against the precision singing around her. In London, Martine Dupuy replaces her, and EMI might think about doing the same in the recording they are making at the Châtelet.

JOHN HIGGINS

The bleak majesty of Schubert's *Winterreise* has been adapted once again — this time, for the stage

Timeless and timely winter of discontent

IN the last year of his life, Schubert gathered together a few close friends to sing for them a group of songs which, he said, affected him more than anything he had written. "I will sing for you," he said, "a cycle of shuddering (*schauerlich*) songs." Then, according to one friend, "in a voice trembling with emotion, he sang to us the *Winterreise*. We remained quite astonished by the gloomy mood of these songs."

Never has a song-cycle held such an icy grip on each successive generation. No fewer than 50 recorded versions are currently available, and nearly twice that number have appeared since vinyl was first invented.

Although the cycle was originally written for the baritone voice, both male and female singers have readily identified themselves with the lone wanderer who sets out in the darkness, following the tracks of fox and deer in increasingly hallucinatory circles until, after a vision of two suns, he becomes one, in this white world, with the eternal music of the organ-grinder.

Hans Zender has recently "recomposed" *Winterreise* in an expressionist orchestration with the Ensemble Modern. And now *Winterreise* is to be staged. In its first visit to Britain, the Opéra Comique of Paris will present a version of the song-cycle in which tenor Martyn Hill and pianist Andrew Ball will perform within an installation conceived by artist Christian Boltanski and directed by Hans Peter Cloos.

Baritone Wolfgang Holzmair, whose new recording of *Winterreise* has just been released, feels that the cycle has never spoken more directly than to our turning century. "We all feel a *Winterreise* in us," he says. "This winter journey means simply being without warm emotions, existing in a state of forced loneliness. This is exactly what our time is. We have never had

more means of communication open to us, but we have never been more alone; because we insist on being individuals. And we are therefore condemned to go in that

'The song-cycle speaks directly to our turning century'

one direction. To take that path from which, as the wanderer says, there is no way back."

For Cloos there has been an even more personal impetus. "I was born in Stuttgart, immediately after the war, and was brought up with these

very existential questions of life and death. And they were never answered for me as I would have liked them to be. There was a denial of responsibility. *Winterreise* has always been for me a voyage into the collective death of our country."

More specifically, when he met Boltanski and started discussing the project, it became a voyage out into the plains of central Europe. They took a train between Vienna and Prague, and the cameras started rolling. Black and white footage, used clothes and suitcases from the flea market: a voyage some 50 years distant now, to another heart of darkness...

Whatever the suggested frame of reference, Cloos and Boltanski insisted that this was a 19th-century work, and their search was then for a

19th-century stage. They found the Opéra Comique — and now the Lyric, Hammersmith. The frame is right, the dimensions appropriate. There is talk of the appearance of a set of identical twins, of a dancer. But will the musical performance itself be straight? "Bien sûr! Absolutely straight. We shall possibly change the rhythms between songs, but not within them." Cloos insisted on the tenor voice, because it is "more fragile, more transparent, more light-filled".

In Paris, they turned down the heating in the auditorium and put an overcoat on each seat. Should Hammersmith audiences bring an extra sweater? "Who knows? In Berlin we closed all the doors. We'll come a few days before and then decide what to do. Certainly I never want an audience simply to follow its own secure rituals. For everyone this *Winterreise* must be a personal trip..."

HILARY FINCH

• *Winterreise* is at the Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 (0181-741 2311), March 13-16

All's well that ends well

Thomas Adès's first orchestral piece... but all shall be well, is just a beginning in another sense. It is just beginning to get interesting when it stops. Its slow unfolding from a cautious start suggests that it will need space to work out its melodic implications. In fact, they remain undeveloped in a construction which remains inconclusive.

Having served its immediate purpose — to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Cambridge University Music Society — it could usefully be incorporated in a score which demonstrates more confidence in the abilities both of the orchestra and

the composer. All might then be well.

The Adès piece was also just a beginning to a programme which went on, without interval, to Mahler's Ninth Symphony. The Halle audience heard Kent Nagano conduct the work on one of his first appearances in Manchester and clearly, since there were so few empty seats, remembered enough of the performance to be expecting something out of the ordinary. But much has happened in the intervening four years. Nagano's earlier interpretation was

CONCERT

Hallé/Nagano Manchester

painfully truthful; this one was ferociously frank and even more out of the ordinary. There is no possibility that, after all this time as music director of the Halle Orchestra, Nagano could have misjudged the acoustics of the Free Trade Hall and that he would have preferred a differ-

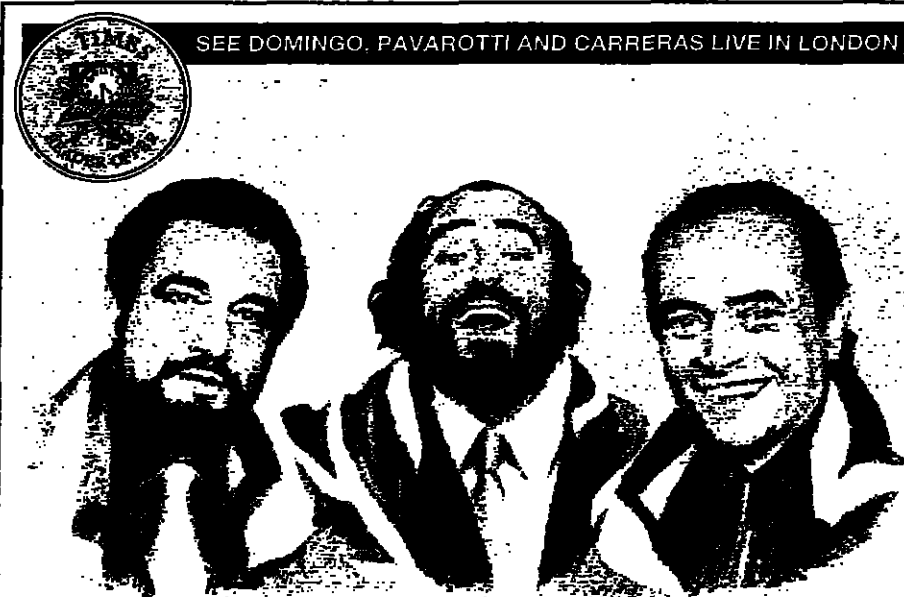
ent kind of balance in the first movement. His dismissal of whatever consoling sounds there might have been in the strings, his refusal to mitigate the anguish in the brass by giving the violins their due, was surely deliberate.

It was also illuminating in that it aligned the work not so much with early Schoenberg, where the history books would have it, but with the expressionist and more or less contemporary Richard Strauss of *Salome* and *Elektra*. Certainly, it was a disturbing experience and a remarkable

achievement from instrumentalists driven to extremes.

Another development in Nagano's interpretation is that in one of the rare moments of relief from the cruel burlesque of the third movement, where there is a tantalising glimpse of the ideal to be sought at length in the Adagio finale, he now plays down the hope it expresses. The Adagio itself, previously remarkable for its control, is now passionately motivated from the start. There was much beauty in this presentation of the finale, not least from the solo strings, but also much despair in its sustained refusal to compromise.

GERALD LARNER



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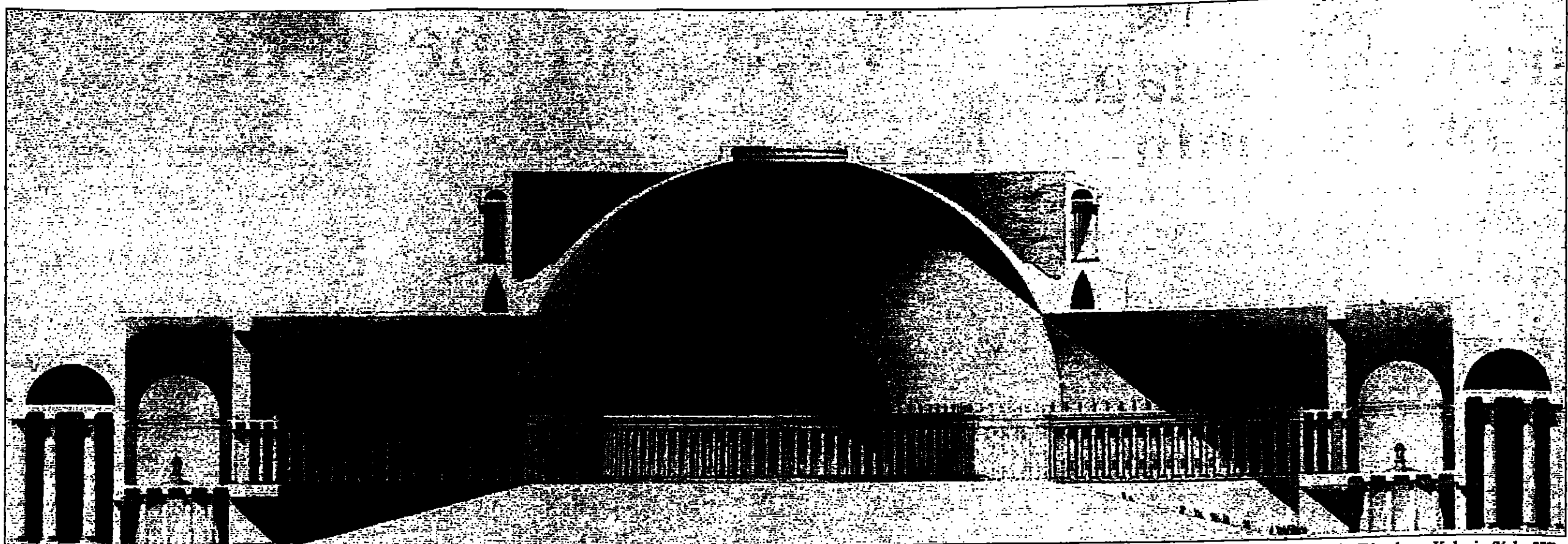
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Insurrection can take many forms: a re-evaluation of French 18th-century pornography reveals political unrest, says Howard Davies



Etienne-Louis Boullée's Utopian designs — this for a museum in 1783 — were influenced by Denis Diderot's praise for the aesthetics of "pure form": from *Architecture in France in the 18th Century*, by Wend von Kalnein (Yale, £50)

Revolt under the cloak

THE FORBIDDEN
BEST-SELLERS OF
PRE-REVOLUTIONARY
FRANCE

By Robert Darnton
HarperCollins, £25

Comte du Barry, though racy, have serious intent. Mercier's book is by far the most interesting. A political fable set in Paris 700 years in the future it is, as Darnton says, a general indictment of life under the old regime. The narrator awakes from a 700-year slumber and is shown around the Paris of 2440 by a guide who — rather heavily-handedly — explains

how the social problems of the 18th century have been resolved through an enlightened rationalist approach. The moral is entirely clear and the book, we are told, was highly popular. Mercier himself was sure of the impact of what he had written, describing himself modestly as the true prophet of the French Revolution.

So far, so compelling. But Darnton acknowledges a leap of faith: the number of copies of these books in circulation was very modest. How did the ideas spread to a broader public?

The answer to that essential question is obscure. There is a lengthy disquisition on the rival theories of the "diffusion studies" school of literary history on the one

hand, and the "discourse analysts" on the other. To the uninitiated, this can make the little ender/big ender dispute seem a high order of intellectual problem.

Then Darnton offers his own answer, in the form of a kind of wiring diagram known as "The Communication Circuit", designed to show how news and views passed from bookshop to salon to the public at large. He distinguishes between the diffusion routes followed by "bruits publics", "nouvelles de boue" and "nouvelle à la main" — perhaps unfortunate terminology in view of what has gone before.

Again, Darnton's industry impresses. He has laboured through informers' records of decades of

café conversation, lodged in the *prefecture de police*. Sadly, the linkages he seeks to establish remain tenuous: the evidence is circumstantial, at best.

But there is a commonsense side to the argument which impresses. In spite of these circuit-breaks in the wiring, if books do not sometimes change the political mood, why has Peter Mandelson put himself between hard covers?

And it is grudging to criticise a man who tries to ask what he calls "the big questions in history", for not having produced cut and dried answers to them. Darnton's "bi-joux" may have been more Currie than Mandelson, but I am persuaded that Darnton is working a rich historical seam. *The Forbidden Best-Sellers* paints one piece of the jigsaw of pre-revolutionary France in fascinating and suggestive detail.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

MY OXFORD essay on Diderot 25 years ago was thin, even by my low standards. And, for once, I felt a spasm of guilt. Because most of the time I should have devoted to *Le Neveu de Rameau* or *Le Rêve de d'Alembert* had instead been spent reading *Les Bijoux indiscrets* which I stumbled across in an ancient volume of Diderot's miscellaneous writings.

"*Les Bijoux*" in question are the private parts of the sisters in a provincial convent, which gain the power of speech at the appearance of a magic ring on the finger of a young male visitor. The tales they tell of what their mistresses get up to between Masses are not fit for those of a sensitive disposition. And while Diderot dresses up his plot in loose anti-clerical garb, his principal intention is clear. *Les Bijoux* is in the category Rousseau described as "books to be read with one hand": pornography.

But I was not, it turns out, wasting time on a frivolous or

unworthy text. *Les Bijoux* was one of a large number of forbidden books sold in France "under the cloak" by Swiss booksellers, often under the generic heading of philosophical works. Some were futuristic fantasies, some simple pornography, some anti-clerical or anti-monarchy tracts, others more serious works of political philosophy. Together, Robert Darnton argues, they amounted to a lethal attack on the *ancien régime*, fatally undercutting its legitimacy in the minds of the book-reading elite. From there they entered the currency of public debate and created the political tinderbox which ignited in 1789.

How plausible is this argument? Can books cause revolutions?

The weight of scholarship Darnton brings to bear in support of his theory is impressive. He has unearthed comprehensive documentation on the 18th-century legal book trade between Switzerland and France, and cross-checked it with Parisian police records. There can be little doubt that, thanks to his efforts, we now do know what 18th-century Frenchmen read.

There is little doubt, either, about the subversive nature of much of this "under the counter" literature. Of the three books which are published here in summary form, in an extended Annex, *Thérèse Philosophe* may look to be firmly in the one-handed category, but Mercier's *L'An 2440*, and de Mairmont's *Anecdotes sur Madame la*

The source of an army's hidden fire

Alistair Horne

VOLCANO UNDER
SNOW
Vo Nguyen Giap
By John Colvin
Quartet Books, £25

In the First World War, of all the colonial troops who fought for France on the Western Front, the so-called "Annamites" were generally regarded as the least battle-worthy. They were employed as navvies, filling in pot-holes on the road to Verdun; or used to maintain order in Paris.

Fifty years later, their grandchildren emerged as perhaps the most redoubtable warriors of all the Cold War, giving new meaning to the remark once made by Bismarck: "A generation that has taken a thrashing is often

followed by one which deals out the thrashing."

In a war lasting 30 years, they decisively defeated Indo-China both the French and then all the power that the United States could throw against them.

The military architect of these triumphs was General Vo Nguyen Giap, who at 85 still lives in semi-retirement in Hanoi. The sobriquet given him by Hanoi propagandists, "Volcano Under Snow", has been chosen by John Colvin as the title of a hard-hitting new book about the Indo-China wars in general. It was Giap who, from the departure of the Japanese in 1945 until the fall of Saigon in 1975, was responsible for the brilliant field training, the brutal Communist discipline, and the strategic planning which changed the Vietnamese from a handful of bomb-throwers into an unbeatable army.

Perhaps Giap's greatest achievement lies in the iron morale he instilled into his units, which could go on fighting after six months' constant battle, having suffered up to 80 per cent casualties. This could not be emulated by the French colonial forces, by US draftees, or by the ARVN of South Vietnam. Giap's guiding principle was "defeat the greater with the lesser". At Dien Bien Phu in 1953, the battle which decisively defeated the French, Giap forced them to dissipate their strength by a series of widely-



Giap: transformed guerrillas into an effective army

spaced diversionary attacks. Then he cornered them in a Verdun-like trap of their own making. France finally sued for peace.

Colvin pays unexpectedly high tribute to the French commander, the haughty de Lattre de Tassigny. But de Lattre died of cancer at the very moment, to be succeeded by mid-levels more typical of the Fourth Republic. Navarre, Cogan and Salan — all hating each other, and with their hands tied by Paris. One of the issues left unresolved by Colvin is to what extent Dien Bien Phu was won by Chinese

support, both in advisers and artillery.

The greatest asset Giap had throughout, however, was his realisation that, when fighting against Western democracies, time was his ally (Saddam Hussein was also to discover this in the Gulf War). Colvin sees the Tet Offensive of 1968 as having been a costly military defeat for Giap; but the impact it had on American television won the war for the Vietnamese.

More controversially, Colvin — who, as Britain's top representative in Hanoi all through 1965-67, was well

placed to judge — still reckons that the strategic bombing of Hanoi and the mining of Haiphong could have strangled Giap, at least militarily.

Yet, as Charles Wheeler's powerful television series currently reminds us, America's Vietnam War was lost, not in the paddy fields of the Khe Sanh, but on the playing fields of Kent State University. Giap said he intended "to carry the war into the families of America" — he did precisely that.

It leaves one with the question: just how much was Giap's greatness composed of the incompetence, or feebleness of political will, on the part of his enemies? John Colvin has set himself a daunting task, but the verdict of history will have to await a Vietnamese glasnost and detailed analysis of Hanoi's war archives — if there are any.

For Giap and the Vietnamese, "twas a famous victory", indeed. But in the long term, what did all the appalling cost in lives and material destruction achieve after 1975? The unwilling *ku-laks* and middle classes of South Vietnam disappeared into a night every bit as dreadful as anything imposed by Stalin; yet now, 20 years later, American venture capitalists are swarming back, with stuffed carpet-bags, into what promises to be the new Taiwan of South-East Asia. One would be curious to know what, in his retirement, the venerable "Volcano Under Snow" thinks of it all.

Saviour in the spirit of place

Michael Arditti

UNHOLY GHOSTS
By Ida Daly
Bloomsbury, £14.99

THE HOLY Ghost is the surprising object of devotion for Belle, a young Jewish convert to Roman Catholicism, in the Dublin of the early 1950s.

Instinctively, she chooses the neutral symbol of faith rather than the more personal figures of Jehovah or Christ: for it is the clash between the Old and New Testaments, as reflected in her early life, that leads to her incarceration in a mental hospital at the age of 18. Here, she is brutally treated before being rescued and released by Anto, an idealistic young doctor, who employs her as a gardener on the staff.

Now, 30 years later, the hospital is being closed, the garden is destined for destruction and Anto is departing for Romania. Before he leaves, he urges her to confront the succession of unpalatable truths which she has long repressed. To Belle, the past is a palimpsest, rewritten with each newly remembered fact.

Chief among Belle's ghosts are the good and bad angels who fight over her fate: the socialist teacher, Mona McCarthy, whose influence fires her to make a similar political commitment; and Father Jack, who personifies the dangers of a religion that has been hijacked by priests.

The particular triumph of this novel is its seamless interweaving of Belle's personal struggle with the great historical events of the mid-20th century, and Daly paints a wondrously witty portrait of the absurdities of the far Left.

BUT SHE reserves her true scorn and bitter satire for the spiritual tyranny that permeates every aspect of Irish life. It becomes clear why Belle finds her idea of God in a garden and not in a church.

Daly has inevitably been compared to Edna O'Brien, whose shimmering lyricism she shares, but her international concerns in a deceptive domestic framework are more akin to Bernice Rubens. This is a beautiful novel, as satisfying in execution as it is far-reaching in themes. Belle's garden may be swept away, but her story will surely last.

Michael Arditti's novel, *Pagan* and her Parents, is published this month by Sinclair Stevenson



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We are all Africans; so what's new? Darwin suggested that human beings evolved in Africa. The earliest and richest fossil deposits of our ancestors have all been found in Africa and the Leakey family, along with their colleagues and rivals, have periodically seized our imagination with their tales of humankind's African origin, beginning some five million years ago.

By two million years ago people had crossed the rest of the Old World, and it is in this early expansion that some scientists see the origins of modern populations. Now it has become apparent that all humans alive today are descended from a small population that, until relatively recently — two hundred thousand years — was located in Africa.

So we are also African in a more definite sense. Stringer and McKie tell the story of our African roots and attempt to resolve some misconceptions concerning recent human evolution along the way.

Inevitably much of the early part of the book is concerned with setting the issue within the wider context of human evolution. The Neanderthals make an appearance, usefully summarising much of what

was in Stringer's previous book, *In Search of the Neanderthals*, as it appears that they were the population replaced by the ancestors of modern Europeans.

Much of the rest of the book concerns the fiercely debated evidence for the recent origin of modern humans, and the localisation of this event to the African continent. There is, naturally, a review of the fossil material itself, but a wealth of other material is woven into the explanation. There are general arguments from evolutionary biology and specific pointers to the status of ancient populations contained in what they have left behind.

While these obviously include tools and works of art, they also include the language that we speak today

Something new out of Africa

Mark Lacey

AFRICAN EXODUS
By Chris Stringer and Robin McKie
Jonathan Cape, £17.99



Lions painted 30,000 years ago on a French cave wall: from *The Chauvet Cave* (Thames and Hudson, £28)

and the genes that we have inherited from our ancestors. The authors review the study of this multifaceted evidence, providing introductions to the many, often baffling, techniques involved in establishing the antiquity of bones, artefacts and intriguingly, bits of our genes.

The study of our origins can never be a morally neutral, "scientific" process. Origins are central to the way we see ourselves. Ideas about race are intertwined with this debate,

and Stringer maintains that the differences between the modern races are superficial; the underlying biology that continues to shape our lives today is a common heritage from African ancestors.

It emerges that the genetic difference between a pair of individuals drawn from a single population, say Swedes, will on average be greater than the difference between the Swedish population as a whole and some other population. Quite properly Stringer

and McKie do not shrink the socio-ethical implications of this and rebut the recent use of the "Out of Africa" theory in the work of lunatic racial theorists. (Anyone who read *The Bell Curve* should read this book.)

On the other hand this is not a liberal whitewash; the book acknowledges biological differences between populations separated by both geography and history, but it makes the important point that this variation is actually very small compared with what one might expect from such a widely dispersed species. The account that they give of the heritage of Darwinian imperatives shaping the differences between the sexes harks back to Desmond Morris's *Naked Ape* and will strike some as positively antediluvian — exactly what it is.

Acknowledging these aspects of our evolutionary heritage does not lead to biological determinism, but facilitates free will. Culture emerges as the force that drove our African ancestors to global domination at the expense of our ancient cousins. Stringer and

McKie conclude their book by pointing out that it is culture that continues to divide us and that only culture can show us the way forward.

The amount of material covered and the fact that the book was written by two very different authors necessarily entails some fragmentation; but this is an entertaining and authoritative introduction to the best of current thinking on the origin of modern humanity. One of the bonuses of the book is the insight it gives into the bitter personal rivalry that has characterised the academic debate about this subject.

Over the years Stringer has been subjected to considerable personal and academic abuse because of his ideas, and here he takes a richly deserved opportunity to level some choice invective at his critics. It seems that in the intellectual ancestry of this issue, the proponents of the "African Exodus" are the "intellectually modern" survivors — their "archaic" critics are sadly consigned to the mists of history along with the Neanderthals they purport to be descended from.

Mark Lacey was recently elected the Sir Christopher Cox Fellow of New College, Oxford

EC ruling on food names is hard cheese for cheddar

By CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS
AND ROBIN YOUNG

ANYBODY passing off common English beef as Scottish or abusing the good name of Gorgonzola will be in trouble with the law under proposed European regulations approved yesterday.

The items are among 318 regional food products, chosen from more than 1,400 submitted, that the European Commission deems worthy of protection from imitators and imposters.

While British producers are happy to see protection extended to 26 national treasures such as Stilton cheese, Newcastle Brown Ale and Jersey Royal potatoes, the Commission's menu provoked indignation in Denmark. Copenhagen fought in vain to prevent the Greeks from cornering the name of Feta for its goats' milk cheese, thereby stripping the label from a Danish cows' milk product.

The conditions for registration include a requirement that the product must meet a given standard of quality and that it must enjoy a reputation linking it with a geographical area.

Cheddar cheese is among half a dozen internationally famous cheeses singled out as not qualifying for protection on the ground that they are already so widely imitated



The only brown ale that's Newcastle's

elsewhere that their names have become no more than generic descriptions. However, West Country Farmhouse Cheddar has been accepted as being sufficiently distinct to qualify for registration. The other "generic" cheeses are edam, gouda, brie, camembert and emmental.

The aim of the scheme is to protect producers of premium products and their customers from imitators and imposters, in much the same way as a patent or trademark protects industrial goods.

The list agreed by the Commission yesterday has still to be approved by the EU agriculture ministers, meeting in council later this month. There could be further argument there because the Italians are

pressing a claim, opposed by British MEPs, that Parma ham should not only be produced, but also packed and sliced in the Parma region.

Caroline Jackson, Conservative MEP for Wiltshire North and Bath, said yesterday: "Parma ham is of particular concern to us because the listing may prevent it being sliced and packed in Britain, threatening jobs here."

It will be no good food producers resorting to such labels as "Feta-style" or "Parmesan-style". Just as Champagne won the monopoly on its name when Europe applied similar rules to wines and spirits, only the genuine article may mention the title.

The Commission is examining a further 1,100 requests from member states. These include Dorset Knob biscuits and Whistable Oysters, as well as Wensleydale cheese, whose makers are accusing the Ministry of Agriculture of mishandling its original application.

A glance at the Commission's list shows that the southern European countries were far quicker off the mark than those in the north. Long a convert to the merits of *appellation contrôlée*, France has won the lion's share of protected names, registering 32 regional chickens and 36 cheeses as well as a host of other specialties such as Pink Toulouse Lauret garlic and Provence lavender oil.

Eager to use the system to promote artisanal industries of all kinds, Paris is now pressing for protection of Savoy cow bells. The Germans, in contrast, won protection only for 32 mineral waters.

Softening its defeat in the Feta war, the Commission wants to allow Denmark a five-year transition period to phase out its Feta and it acknowledged that it would be powerless to stop European firms exporting products that breached its "geographical indications and designations of origin".

Officer's letters tell of skirmishes with rodents and Florence Nightingale



Belying the popular image of glorious heroism, correspondence from the 19th century war reveals disease, prejudice and mismanagement

Army of rats petrified Crimean troops

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND JOHN VINCENT

THE awesome combination of giant rats and Florence Nightingale imposed as great a privation on British soldiers in the Crimean War as anything the Russians could throw at them, according to previously unpublished letters about to come up at auction.

Major Francis Beckford Ward, Royal Artillery, in a collection of 70 letters to his parents in England, tells of hapless infantrymen being put to flight by hundreds of huge rodents. He also writes of the threat that the founder of modern nursing — who achieved near-sainthood after being spurred to action by the despatches of W. H. Russell, the *Times* correspondent at the war — might be on her way to visit his hospital.

The 700 pages of correspondence emerged from a private collection and will be sold at Phillips in London next Thursday. They are expected to fetch up to £3,000. In one of the letters, which were written between December 1854 and June 1856, Major Ward writes: "Our chief enemies at the moment



Foes on the same side: Florence Nightingale, spurred to action by reports in *The Times*, and Major Ward, who awaited her arrival with apprehension

are the rats, and they annoy us exceedingly. The Crimean rat seems to be a most audacious brute and he has no respect for persons or things. He eats everything he can get at, and he fights and squeals, and runs over one as one is lying in bed without the smallest compunction." The major, who was senior

British officer at the Battle of Tchernaya on August 16, 1855, continues: "My men are quite afraid of them, and my late sergeant-major (John Sweeney), a great stout man of 6ft 3ins and broad in proportion with a tremendous black beard... brought me home a wonderful story one night of being attacked

on his road home from headquarters by hundreds of these animals and being fairly put to flight. He really grew quite pale in telling the tale."

clothed and, almost without exception, old men or young boys. Most were suffering from dysentery and their only food appeared to be "a small bag of black mouldy bread with a little oil to moisten it".

In another letter, Major Ward writes: "Miss Nightingale is here again, and I understand that she threatens to pay a visit to my hospital during the present week." Felix Pryor, Phillips' manuscript specialist, said yesterday: "She was actually seen by many people out there as an interfering pain in the neck."

Major Ward refers to a scathing broadside delivered by Major-General Sir Colin Campbell at the commander-in-chief, Lord Raglan, who died of disease during the campaign: "a damned red-headed, oily-tongued fellow from Woolwich".

Ward adds in his letter home: "Joking apart, such scenes as these cannot fail to show that the mismanagement so often complained of has not been over-exaggerated." Mismanagement was almost as regular a theme of Russell's reports to *The Times* as the insanitary conditions of the wounded.

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- Fruits, vegetables and cereals: Jersey Royal potatoes.
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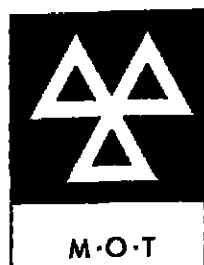
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Firm breeds herd of donor pigs

Ethics group paves way for human use of animal organs

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE prospect of animal organs being used to give humans an extra lease of life was given a cautious welcome by an expert group yesterday.

Genetically modified pigs could provide organs for thousands of people waiting for a transplant, but the ethical and practical issues must be discussed first, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics said in a report.

As well as the technical difficulties of xenotransplants — using organs from animals to help human patients — such as overcoming rejection of the foreign organ, there are risks that animal diseases could be transferred to the human population with disastrous consequences.

The Nuffield working party, chaired by Professor Albert Weale of the University of Essex, said patients being offered the treatment should have the advantages and disadvantages explained to them by outsiders not directly involved in the research programme, to avoid pressure being put on them.

A national advisory committee on xenotransplantation should be established to con-

trol the development and ensure that the maximum benefit is provided to patients at the minimum risk. Pigs, rather than primates, should be the source of the organs, the report says.

Imutran, a Cambridge-based company, has said that it will be ready to attempt the first organ transplant from its herd of genetically modified pigs this year. But Professor Mark Walport, of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital in west London and a member of the working party, said yesterday that clear evidence of success in animal trials and approval from the proposed national advisory committee should be obtained before human trials begin.

Professor Weale said: "On the fundamental question of whether xenografts should take place, our view was that the benefits of transplants are so considerable and the present organ shortage so serious that it would be ethically acceptable."

The guiding principle should be proceed, but proceed with caution: always paying attention to the highest

standards of patient care and animal welfare. "One of the greatest problems was that of disease," Professor Walport said. "The risks are probably very small, and in the case of pigs, remote." But we cannot measure the risk with any accuracy.

The report says that primates such as chimpanzees or baboons should not be used as sources of organs. They are closer to man so could offer some advantages in controlling rejection, but that very closeness raises ethical questions and increases the risk of transmitting infection. To produce clean organs, primates might have to be raised in sterile isolation. They grow much more slowly than pigs and the chimpanzee, man's closest relative, is already threatened in the wild.

An official government committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Ian Kennedy of King's College London, is due to report soon on the same subject. As things stand, Professor Walport said, a surgeon needs only the approval of his own hospital's ethics committee to proceed with a xenotransplant.

Lab produces twin lambs in cloning breakthrough

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have developed a technique for cloning sheep that eventually could be used to produce large numbers of genetically identical animals.

Previously, cloning small numbers of calves, sheep, rabbits and mice has been achieved by taking nuclei from the cells of week-old embryos and fusing them with unfertilised eggs from which the nuclei containing the DNA material have been removed. Now researchers at the Roslin Institute, near Edinburgh,

have cultivated embryo cells in the laboratory, letting them sub-divide many times into identical cells before cloning them.

The science journal *Nature* reports that the scientists produced two identical surviving lambs from seven ewes made pregnant in this way. Dr Ian Wilmut, a member of the research team, said: "The success rate was low and there are many problems to be overcome, but we have shown that the method works."

He said that initial use of the technology would probably be to produce a few

animals with desirable characteristics, such as a high meat content or resistance to particular diseases, from which farmers could breed in the normal way. Clare Gosling of the National Farmers' Union was cautious about the benefits of cloning. "A herd or flock made up of identical animals could be highly susceptible to disease," she said.

Dr Wilmut said that he would be appalled by any attempt to use the technique to clone human beings. In any case, the team did not know if the method would work with cell types from other species.



Abelhard, a Bewick's swan, wearing the radio transmitter which will help scientists track its movements

Satellite will track swans' flightpaths

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

MIGRATING swans have been fitted with radio transmitters to enable scientists to trace the route the birds follow each spring when they return from Britain to their arctic breeding grounds.

One Bewick's swan, named Pedro, has already set off on the 2,500-mile journey and sent back his first signal from the Goteskoog-See, a lake on the German-Danish border. A second, Abelhard, is expected to leave in the next few days.

The pioneering project is being co-ordinated by John Bowler, swan research officer at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, the birds' point of departure. "After 30 years of studying the birds we know hardly anything about the location of their breeding grounds or stopping-off points on their way to and from them," he said. "Once we have this information we can press for tighter controls to protect these areas."

Bewick's swans are slightly smaller than the mute swans that are year-round residents of Britain. They also have straighter necks and yellow and black bills rather than the familiar orange and black. The birds breed across northern



The bittern: blown off course

Russia from the Finnish border to the Pacific Ocean and are thought to number about 45,000. Up to 8,000 spend the winter in Britain, around 450 of them at Slimbridge, arriving in late October and leaving during March.

During their annual migration, which takes up to eight weeks in either direction, the birds stop to rest and feed on lakes, reservoirs, flooded grasslands and, sometimes, sheltered sea bays, but

little is known about which ones they use. The transmitter, weighing 90 grams and the size of a cigarette pack, is strapped to the swan's back with a lightweight harness. A 30-centimetre aerial sends signals via a satellite to a receiving station in Toulouse, southwest France, which feeds the information to a computer at Bristol University.

"The male bird always flies with a female so we only have to fit the male with the transmitter," Mr Bowler said. "Initially, the birds will send back signals once every 13 days but once they reach the breeding grounds the transmissions will be much more frequent, enabling us to locate where they are to within a few hundred feet."

A rare bird blown off course by more than 400 miles is to be flown home, by Brymon Airways. The bittern, which looks like a small heron, was blown from its normal home in the Norfolk reedbeds and was discovered in a pig sty in West Cornwall a week ago. He has been nursed back to health at the Mousehole Wild Bird Hospital. Brendan McSherry of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "If the bittern were not so rare, I don't know if we would go to the effort of getting it home, but there are only 20 breeding males in this country."

Computer casts net in hunt for fish

By NICK NUTTALL

A POWERFUL new method of detecting fish stocks is being tested by trawlermen in the Barents Sea, with claims that it is boosting catches by up to 50 per cent.

The computerised fish detector, produced by Russian marine scientists, is being tested on Murmansk-based boats fishing for cod and capelin, a small member of the smelt family.

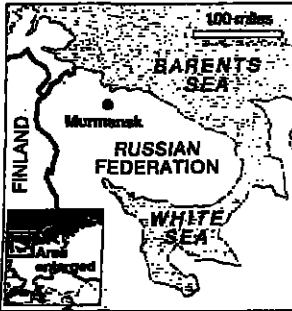
Dr Will Tesler, head of acoustics research at the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography in Moscow, said yesterday that in the Barents Sea fishing vessels that had been using the prototype for finding cod were increasing catches by up to 50 per cent in some cases.

Fishing boats worldwide routinely use Sonar to detect shoals of fish. But Dr Tesler said project Bort was a big leap ahead.

The Russian fish detector receives instant information from satellites on sea temperatures and discoloration on the sea's surface, indicating areas where fish food is available in large amounts. The Bort computer matches that information with charts of the seabed and historical records on good catch areas. It then advises the skipper on the best place to put down nets.

The Russian scientists are hoping to turn the prototype into a commercial product for the world's fishing fleets, including Britain's.

Dr Tesler, speaking at Oceanology International in Brighton, dismissed suggestions that the development might prove the last straw for the globe's beleaguered fish stocks. There was evidence that fish numbers were far more buoyant than some governments and environmentalists claimed, he said.



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تحتذا من الاصل

Strong wine from the vintage of his youth

Bernard Levin on the British publication of Gore Vidal's early novel of love and loss

Preceding, thy name is Vidal. He published his first novel in 1946, when he was 21, and from then on never a year goes by that a book — be it a novel, collection of essays or a screenplay — comes from his almost but not quite overflowing pen.

This, his fourth novel, was published in the United States in 1949, but has only now appeared in Britain: certainly Britain's gain. It is, of course, a young man's work, and it shows (there is a good deal of clothing before he gets into his stride) but the precocity overwhelms the rough corners. For that matter, it is obviously Vidal himself speaking, but the skill with which he makes sure that he is not just a puppet is amazing. The reader will gasp again and again to think that such youth can produce such maturity.

The setting is a world of a world gone by: this is the South, and there is a Vice-President on the premises, but even a Vice-President can swear from the heart, and — don't forget — the blood of the Civil War still flows in some hearts and minds and even memories 80 years on.

These are the nobility of the South, and a stiff will do for the North ("... the Northerners had been coming South ever since the World War..."), but at some point here Bill enters on to the stage, and remains there. On the whole, it is both a nuisance and an impertinence for a novelist to have to be always arguing about which of his characters are based on which real persons, but Vidal/Bill manages to soar over that tiresome hurdle.

For instance, his abrupt meeting with puberty is handled with remarkable lightness and realism: "Finally he discovered that an unpleasant fat boy who lived next door (he barely knew him) had been caught doing something rather mysterious to himself and when his mother had caught him said that Bill had shown him. The whole thing was confusing and, though, after a few days, he stopped consciously thinking about it, he never really forgot."

Who would have thought that our ironclad hero could be so realistic that he never really forgot.

That, however, is nothing compared to the wonderful growing up: if our hero can be realistic, he can also be tender, and in the middle of the book (the placing cannot have been random) there is such a passage: "The other boys came over to look at Bill. Most of them were older and had been in the dormitory two or three years. They watched him unpack and they talked to him, asking him where he was from and what his father did. The fact that his parents were divorced interested them very much. They said unpleasant things about the school he'd been to; they said it was a girls' school. Then, seeing another boy unpacking, they went over and began to make fun of him. Bill was glad that he was large for his age, that not many boys ever picked with fights with him. The oldest boys in this dormitory were 14. For boys over 14 there was another dormitory. Most of the students in the school, however, were day boys. Bill was frightened at this evening and on his guard the first week. He was not homesick, having been away from home before, and, besides, there was not a real home to be sick for."

For any boy going to a boarding school (I was one), on this side of the Atlantic or the other, the picture is absolutely correct in every detail: again, we are pulled up to be shown that Vidal has a soft side. (A drunken mother is rather more to handle, but again, Vidal manages to clear every hurdle that he jumps.)

There are a few bits of nonsense, particularly when a tiresome idea is worked to death by claiming that a king is coming, but there are real people and there is real pain for the last page in the book throws off all coverings when the real Gore Vidal discovers that the real Jimmy, his beloved friend, has been killed in action: "Jimmy was dead. He put the letter down without finishing it. He would have cried but he'd forgotten how."



Vidal: precocious maturity

THE SEASON OF COMFORT
By Gore Vidal
Andre Deutsch, £14.99

Ian McIntyre on the delights found in the letters of a Nobel Laureate at his peak

Mud and the gentry

I have a fat middle-aged cousin whom I introduced last year to the delights of winter sports. He took to them with the joy of a large retriever. (The cousin was an obscure Tory backbencher called Stanley Baldwin.) Kipling's letters have all the racy vigour that characterise his storytelling. And the vividness. "All the birds of the wood have come to beg rations," he tells his American friend Charles Elinor Norton. "Figure to yourself a blackguard jay — a beautiful ruffian in blue — coming into our garden cowed and penitent, like a sort of half frozen Villon."

"England is a wonderful land," he writes in the same letter. "It is the most marvellous of all foreign countries that I have ever been in. It is made up of trees and green fields and mud and the Gentry! I'll take a new pen and explain." He had just bought Bateman's, his grey stone lichen-dream house, and he was to live there for the rest of his life.

In that first decade of the century Kipling was at the height of his powers. *Kim* appeared in 1901, and was followed by *Just So Stories*, *Traffics and Discoveries*, *Puck of Pook's Hill*, *Actions and Reactions* and *Rewards and Fairies*. His ability to write in the genre of historical fiction calculated to appeal to both children and adults was something which gave him particular pride. "I worked the material in three or four overlaid tints and textures," he wrote. "It was like working lacquer and mother o'pearl into the same scheme as niello and grisaille, and trying not to let the joints show."

The letters bring the man marvellously alive. He was immensely industrious, and yet always found leisure to go fly-fishing or pursue his passionate affair with the motor-car. "You won't know Brighton seafrom," he tells his American mother-in-law, "so you will never understand the joy of breaking down for lack of fuel under the eyes of 3000 Brighton Hackmen and about 2,000,000 trippers."

Visiting Canada in 1907, he was treated like royalty, with a



Rudyard Kipling in 1888 with his father, author and illustrator John Lockwood Kipling

private rail-car at his disposal: "I didn't know it was mine till the Negro Potentate in charge said to me as I got out at Montreal: — 'What shall I do wif yo' car, Sir.' Then I discovered it was mine for six weeks — negro King, hot and cold water, smoking room, private stateroom, cathedral aisle, etc. etc. etc."

Fame affected him not at all. "We have to go abroad next week for a few days," he wrote to Conan Doyle in 1907 —

THE LETTERS OF RUDYARD KIPLING
Volume III, 1900-1910
Edited by Thomas Pinney
Macmillan, £49.50

omitting to mention that their destination was Stockholm, where he was to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. To a letter of congratulation from the Australian Prime Minister

he replied that he was pleased "because it's the first time that that prize has come to the Empire."

The part of the Empire that was most important to him in these years was South Africa. His admiration for Cecil Rhodes, who gave him the use of a house at Groote Schuur each winter, was unbounded. "He isn't a politician," he told St. Loes Strachey in 1900. "He's the political arena itself." Kipling saw the Boer War as a

purifying storm, and felt bitterly towards the Liberal government for their betrayal of his imperial vision.

He has time for everything and everybody. He pens a long letter to a doctor who was campaigning to prevent typhoid fever in the army: "I have yet to know the education that will keep a crazy-thirsty man away from water — even though a carcass is floating or a mule stalling in it." Gilbert Murray, labouring over his translation of *Electra*, consults him about writing the description of the death of Aegisthus, decapitated by Orestes. "When a man's head is being cut off as a rule he belches a little, making a clannish sound," Kipling volunteers brightly. "On the other hand a man of Anglo-Saxon extraction when suddenly wounded to the death often emits an expression of polite bewilderment."

Descriptions leap from every page. "On Sunday," he informs a Sussex neighbour from Switzerland, "I went to bed with a Throat like a cross between a rat-trap and a nutmeg-grater." In a violent storm in the Channel, the boat "simply stood still and batted her paddles about as a fainting woman waggles her hands in a crowd."

Motoring through Provence he visits Les Baux (this was in 1910, long before it was given the kiss of life by the local *syndicat d'initiative*). He sees "a grey corpse of a city in a quarry that is like a vast stone Golgotha — inconceivably mad and grotesque". A few pages earlier we encounter "that loose-lipped old frump Aphra Behn" and elsewhere we come across a duchess "whose manner and tone would have bred a mutiny in a cageful of white mice". This is a perfect bedside book and an important contribution to Kipling scholarship. All it lacks is an index. We are promised one when the work is complete, but at the end of this third volume Kipling is only in his mid-forties; we are offered a skimpy six and a half page register of names and correspondents. What about an index on loose sheets, discardable when the full version appears?

Child's eye view of terror

To read Fasil Iskander is to appreciate the value of a writer's limited ambition. No one in Russia is better at employing small means to coax small meanings from the great chaos of Soviet totalitarianism. His is the universal chamber music of our grandparents' childhood, more consonant with bicycling trips to the Isle of Wight in August 1939 than with the islands of Solzhenitsyn's famous archipelago.

Historiography tends to zig-zag, and keeping it to the straight and narrow is an awkward job often done by literature. Was everyday life under Stalin the hell on earth which every educated Russian of the present generation will enthusiastically agree it must have been? Yet, like the paradise on earth proclaimed by Beatrice Webb and a thousand others in Stalin's lifetime, that view has now become a propagandistic cliché. The truth told by Iskander is that life is always purgatory.

None of this is to say that the Caucasus of the writer's boyhood, as refracted in this jewel of an autobiography, lies outside politics. Yet politics, in the sense of an all-powerful, all-pervading force, was not perceived by those it crushed as our *ex post facto* historiography would now lead us to believe.

The human fact vividly recalled is that the force in question was popularly perceived as a force of nature. Both the protagonist's age (ten)

Andrei Navrozov

THE OLD HOUSE UNDER THE CYPRESS TREE
By Fasil Iskander
Translated by Jan Butler
Faber, £14.99

and the provincial yet ethnically cosmopolitan setting of the memoir (an Abkhazian port town swarming with Persians, Turks and Greeks) are ideally suited to immersing the reader in that uniquely totalitarian phenomenology and of rendering it universal. To the child's impartial eye nearly

everything that exists, including billiards tables and mass deportations and neighbours' quarrels, is a coequal part of nature. And to the ordinary person's mind, much of what happens in the course of existence is simply destiny. On the surface the result is a naive and humorous portrayal of a nearly extinct way of life. This is a kind of *cinéma vérité* treatment of low-budget, local-colour anachronisms that would not seem out of place in a film about Italy under Mussolini: a lorry driver arguing with a postal clerk about Tokyo being the largest city in the world, a widow writing petitions to impossible far-

away places, a new bicycle becoming the talk of the town. But as one Russian critic has written of Iskander, "beneath the humour of senselessness is a tragic and serious sense". Beneath the charm of the tale, beneath the chamber music of Iskander's prose, the grim moral of the past lies side by side with the anxiety about the age to come. On the last page, Stalin appears to Iskander in a dream, rising from his coffin to conduct the funeral band: "He organised his funeral on purpose just to see who's turned up to bury him. And now he's going to take vengeance on everybody here. Especially the musicians."



Bear hunting in Novgorod c 1916: from *Life on the Russian Country Estate* (Yale, £30)

Artists of earthquake and eclipse



Kubrick's film of 2001 (1968) gave SF an enormous boost

Tom Hutchinson

RICHTER 10
By Arthur C. Clarke and Mike McQuay
Collins, £15.99
MAGIC
By Isaac Asimov
HarperCollins, £15.99

he is in the business of upheavals, with precise predictions of convulsions and an intent to rid the world of future tremors by fusing the oceans' tectonic plates.

All this, and a cast of millions unaware that, as Clarke puts it, civilisation exists by geological consent. But those millions are about to be sacrificed to the most

gigantic disturbance ever — a Number 10 on the Richter Scale.

If some of Clarke's past work has read as though the narrative were pulling itself up by the bootstraps, this floats clear, with the most credible characters he, and McQuay, have created: Crane's querulous black assistant, the woman they both love, the Chinese overlord of the nations he purchases, the transsexual who laces booze with endorphin-stimulants. And the writing is matched to events. The depiction of the aftermath aftermaths of a destroyed Martinique is among the most vivid Clarke has achieved.

Altogether, an epic of alarm that is vast in its implications,

intimate in its understanding of people. Go on, make an old man — Arthur Charles Clarke — very happy and film it, somebody! You'd please a global audience, as well.

Isaac Asimov's *Magic* is not at all filmable: as a collection of ephemera it consists of posthumous crumbs from the feast of ideas which were his life, quoting Clarke — "technology, sufficiently advanced, is indistinguishable from magic" — to explain short fantasies as science fiction.

So the tiny demon, who figures in some of the tales, is no longer supernatural but springs from a high-technology continuum: Asimov, who invented the Laws of Robotics can switch from unicorns to androids at the drop of a metaphor.

BUT, WHEREAS the short stories are wonderfully playful conceits, the essays prove that in dealing with God, the Universe and the Whole Darned Thing, Isaac Asimov had few equals. In his last days he could still throw off opinionated sparks like a giant Catherine wheel.

His poignant tribute to a dead friend, his assessment of J. R. R. Tolkien, his blood-freezing account of American education: all are elevated by a joyful belief in the glory of the human spirit. In an SF universe of pessimistic cyberpunk his optimism thrives.

Just as does the work of his friend and rival, Arthur C. Clarke. Praise be, these two flying sorcerers were down here on a visit. I doubt we shall see their like again. Grand Old Men are out of fashion.

He was the very model of a modern missionary

Piers Paul Read

CARDINAL HERBERT VAUGHAN
Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop of Salford,
Founder of Mill Hill Missionaries
By Robert O'Neil, M. H. M.
Burns & Oates, £20

CATHOLIC DEVOTION IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND
By Mary Heimann
Clarendon Press, £30

CARDINAL VAUGHAN was the third Archbishop of Westminster following the restoration of a Catholic hierarchy by Pope Pius IX in 1850. In contrast to his predecessor, Cardinal Manning, Vaughan came from an old landowning family of recusant Catholics: "The Vaughans of Courfield," it was said, "were never caught else than priests and soldiers". His father was a soldier, his uncle a bishop and five of his brothers became priests.

This background explains many of Vaughan's strengths and weaknesses: he had neither the political acumen of Manning nor the intellectual brilliance of Newman, but was an outstanding administrator who travelled the world raising funds for his St. Joseph's Missionary Society in Mill Hill and funded the building of Westminster Ca-

thedral which celebrates its centenary this year.

After an awkward start, Vaughan became a close friend of his predecessor, Henry Manning, but he differed with him on social questions, in particular on the issue of temperance. Vaughan considered that moderate drinking did no one any harm, and thought Manning's intervention in the London Dock Strike a symptom of senility. Doctrinally, he was vehemently orthodox and shared Manning's "ultramontane" views: viz unhesitating loyalty to the Pope in Rome.

This new biography by Robert O'Neil is thoroughly researched and the material ably presented. It is less

enjoyable to read than, say, David Newsome's *The Convert Cardinals* or Robert Gray's biography of Cardinal Manning. O'Neil lacks the artistry of these authors, and his subject's life was less dramatic. Also, Vaughan's spirituality and personality are both elusive, hidden by the patrician manner of this "curious mixture of an English country gentleman and an Italian monsignor". He was accused of coldness and arrogance. He could never remember people's names and he was provocatively triumphalist, rounding on those such as Lord Halifax who claimed validity for Anglican orders. He ensured that Pope Leo XIII pronounced Anglican orders

"absolutely null and utterly void".

Vaughan came across as politically conservative because of his opposition to Irish nationalism and to liberal tendencies in the Church; but as Fr. O'Neil

points out, he actually undertook more effective social initiatives than the publicly "social" Catholics. He saw poverty as the cause of many pressing problems and insisted that family life was a way to combat it.

In this, and in other respects, Vaughan now seems remarkably modern. The first field for the missionary endeavour of his newly formed Society of St. Joseph was among African-Americans in the United States, many of them newly liberated slaves. He also had a prescient appreciation of the power of the press. Buying the Catholic journal, *The Tablet*, he turned it into a consistent exponent of his own orthodox views, an historical irony given *The Tablet's* liberal editorial line in recent years.

Many of the religious controversies that fill the columns of today's *Tablet* have close parallels in those of the 19th century, and even affect the

judgment of historians of the period. It has been generally accepted, for example, that after 1850 the "ultramontane" Cardinals Wiseman, Manning and Vaughan imposed Italianate devotions upon the English Catholics to bring the English church closer to Rome. This is refuted in a fascinating historical monograph on *Catholic Devotion in Victorian England* by Mary Heimann who establishes that there was in fact no divide in the spirit of Catholic piety from the recusant period. Supposedly Romish practices such as the service of Benediction or the saying of the Rosary were prevalent among English Catholics in the 18th century. "Devotion, far from

exacerbating differences between Irish and English, old Catholics and converts, ultramontanes and liberals, effectively provided a common language to articulate that specifically religious dimension of life which was shared by Catholics as Catholics."

Far from slavishly obeying Rome on every question, the English bishops frequently stood their ground, in particular in retaining their own version of the catechism. Her analysis of the different editions uncovers a shift towards greater denominational distinctiveness but this is apparent from as early as the 1830s and did not follow instructions from Rome. Rather, it reflected missivings about the ability of the Church of England to withstand the growth of scepticism and materialism in the modern world.

Package holiday bookings are up, but France is threatening the future of British travel operators

Tourists spring into action

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE FIRST signs of a spring regeneration in the moribund package holiday industry have begun to appear this week with thousands of would-be holidaymakers tentatively venturing back into travel agencies across Britain.

Tour operators and travel agents, who had been gloomily forecasting that Britain had turned its back on the traditional summer Mediterranean package, were relieved to see a steady trickle of families signing up for a holiday.

The increase in bookings still leaves the industry behind in its attempts to match last year's figures and even the most optimistic tour operators and travel agents predict that 10 per cent fewer holidays will eventually be sold this year than last.

This, however, is still better news for the beleaguered industry: until the last few weeks, sales of package holidays were 30 per cent below last year's level. Then in mid-February a slight improvement saw the gap narrow to about 22 per cent and by yesterday the average travel agent had sales running at between 18 and 20 per cent below last year's levels.

"At least things are better now than they were in Janu-

ary," Peter Shanks, commercial director of Going Places, said. "People do now seem to be ready to book, especially where they know exactly where they want to go, or where there are special offers. We now predict that we might end the summer only about 10 per cent down on last year."

Peter Povey, marketing director of Lunn Poly, said: "We are starting to see signs that current sales are beginning to come back into line with those in the same period last year."

Thomas Cook said that last Saturday was its busiest so far this year and Thomson said that sales in the last week of February this year were 35 per cent up on the same week in 1995. The increase, a spokeswoman said, was "quite, dramatic, the best for a long time".

Roger Corkhill, managing director of Cosmos, believes that the upsurge is taking place because holidaymakers have begun to realise that there will be fewer holidays on the market and that prices are unlikely to fall.

British Airways, whose economy class sales for the summer are still about 20 per cent down on last year, blame rising prices for the fall. "The inclusive tour companies have

raised prices by about 9 per cent in order to ensure they keep their margins," Charles Curassa, director of passenger business, said. "This has the obvious effect of choking off the demand from those who are particularly price sensitive."

Average prices have risen by between 8 and 10 per cent on last year because travel companies have withdrawn at least a million holidays from sale in an attempt to maintain profits.

But discounts are now being offered, especially on holidays to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, and some selected holidays are selling at a £50 discount in an attempt to generate interest by tour operators unwilling to wait any longer for the promised revival.

Long-haul destinations, specialist holidays and cruises are, however, still up on last year.

Thomson is already 90 per cent sold out of its new cruising programme. Airports claims to be 50 per cent up on last year for long-haul holiday sales, and Sunvil, the niche operator which specialises in travel to Cyprus and Greece, said that it had already sold more holidays than at the same time last year.



Walkers in Chamonix: France wants British guides and campsite workers to be paid more

French wages threat

By ROGER BRAY

FRANCE is to order employers in its tourism industry to comply fully with a domestic law which will force them to pay all staff, including British ski chalet girls and campsite workers, at least the French minimum wage.

The clampdown, which will start this summer, could raise the already high cost of holidays in France. British travel firms are seeking a meeting with Bernard Pons, the French Minister of Tourism, to protest at the ruling and seek ways of reviving package holiday bookings to France which are estimated to have plummeted 50 per cent over two years.

In 1994, France passed legislation stipulating that all foreigners employed there must be paid the French minimum wage. So far, this law has not been widely enforced. However, tour operators say that they have received warnings that it will be this summer.

Estimates of how much it would add to the price of a holiday vary from 6 per cent to 15 per cent. Typically, a

small firm organising walking holidays pays tour guides about £120 a week. The French minimum wage works out at about £200 a week. Now the Association of British Tour Operators to France (Abto) hopes to persuade M Pons to delay the implementation of the pay legislation until the European Union has agreed Europe-wide rules which would supersede those imposed by Paris. They would then attempt to persuade Brussels to exempt the travel industry entirely.

The full seriousness of the bookings crisis, emerged during Abto's annual conference, held last week in Cannes. David Burdon, general sales manager of the ferry operator Stena Line, gave a warning to delegates. "If things carry on as they are, 25 per cent of us won't be at next year's conference," he said. "These are desperate times and they need desperate measures. In 1992 the total cost of a family holiday in France was £2,000. Now it is £3,000. Petrol has gone up, VAT is up and now the French Govern-

ment is going to push up the price of labour."

Terry McCarthy, director of Stats MR, the main compiler of travel industry statistics, revealed that while bookings for European city breaks this summer are down by about 24 per cent, those to France are down 49 per cent.

Package holidays account for only about half of the three million or so Britons who take their holidays in France each year, but the number of independent travellers is also falling.

Frederic Moge, the sales director of Pierre Vacances, the holiday apartment company, said: "We can do nothing about the value of the pound, but we feel the British market needs added value. Among the improvements we are looking at are easier check-ins and making British television channels available in all our properties via cable."

"Britain used to be our second biggest market behind Germany. Now it is behind The Netherlands, which has a smaller population. This is a ridiculous situation."

B&B at Dylan Thomas castle

CASTLE House in the little town of Laugharne, West Wales, where Dylan Thomas lived and lies buried, opens to the public this week. John Young writes. The poet was a lodger in the early 1940s, and yesterday a commemorative plaque was unveiled by Rodney Hughes, chairman of the Dylan Thomas Society.

The building has other associations. In the grounds are the remains of the original castle, a Celtic fortress, rebuilt by the Normans de Brian family and later converted by Sir John Perrot, Lord Deputy of Ireland and reputedly the bastard son of Henry VIII, into a Tudor mansion.

During the Civil War his descendant at first espoused the Parliamentary cause, then switched allegiance to the King and paid the price when the castle was largely demolished by Cromwell's army. The present house is mostly Georgian.

From 1934 it was leased by its owners, the Starke family, to Richard Hughes, author of

A High Wind in Jamaica. Another resident was Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect of Portmeirion.

In 1973 Anne Starke gave the castle to the nation, and CADW, the body responsible for ancient monuments in Wales, has completed a 20-year programme of excavation and restoration. To accommodate visitors, Adam Pritchard, the house's owner, is offering bed and breakfast for £16 a night per person.

Of Laugharne, Thomas wrote: "Some people live in Laugharne because they were born in Laugharne... some entered the town in the dark and immediately disappeared... others have certainly come here to escape the international police, or their wives... and some like myself just came one day, for a day, and never left."

The town was immortalised as Llaegub in *Under Milk Wood*, and the boat house where Thomas spent the last four years of his turbulent life is also open to visitors.

UK to get fast ferry

THE DEATH of the conventional roll-on, roll-off passenger ferry in British waters came a step closer yesterday when P&O European Ferries announced the introduction of its first high speed vessel.

The monohull will enter service on the Cairnryan, Scotland to Larne, Northern Ireland route in June, ushering in the first one-hour sea crossing between Britain and Ireland.

Currently under construction in the Mjellmen & Karlsson yard in Bergen, Norway, the ferry will have capacity for 600 passengers and 160 cars and will have a top speed of 35 knots, halving the current crossing time.

The announcement follows the decision by Stena to introduce giant catamarans on its Irish Sea routes later this month with the possibility of extending them to the Channel crossings in future.

The long term future for conventional ferries looks increasingly shaky. New safety regulations will force operators to make costly adaptations to their older vessels.

West Country challenge

By JACK CROSSLEY

ANGRY members of the West Country Tourist Board have written an open letter to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, to rebuff his claim that the industry in the area is "not being well enough managed".

Mr Heseltine's claim was made during a speech in Tavistock, his former constituency, last November. He said: "In a global market for tourism, many people would not now even think of coming to the South West."

Four days later, however, the Prime Minister wrote an article for the *Western Morning News* praising the efforts being made "to focus on your area's strengths".

Ron Morrison Smith, chief executive of the West Country Tourist Board (WCTB), this week pointed to the imaginative plans in hand to "support the development of world class visitor attractions which reflect the unique environmental qualities, historical associations and cultural strengths of the region."

"The Prime Minister and his Deputy should get their speechwriters to talk to each other," he said. "Our Regional Challenge initiatives have already succeeded in landing a £4.25 million grant to which we expect to add £3.76 million from the private sector."

Michael McGahey, chairman of the WCTB, has written

to Mr Heseltine in an open letter that the region "has had to live with a dramatic cut in government funding for tourism and to survive direct competition with Wales which receives £12 million a year compared with just £500,000 for the West Country."

"Despite all these problems, tourism in the region has not declined but has grown over the past five years."

"Today - at all levels - our accommodation, restaurants and tourist attractions offer higher quality and better value for money than in any other part of Europe."

"I would welcome the opportunity to meet you in the West Country in the near future to show you a dynamic industry that has long since thrown off its fabled image and is investing in its future. It is an industry that now deserves your full support and encouragement - not your criticism."

A glossy presentation entitled "Regional Challenge - A Vision for Tourism in Devon and Cornwall" tells how money will be spent on promoting tourist routes, with roads being branded to increase awareness of them.

The A39 between Tiverton and Newquay could become "The Atlantic Way" while the Plymouth, Truro, Penzance route may be called "The Cornish Riviera".

New technology initiatives are planned with more emphasis on Visitor Information Points. "These will be high profile, clearly branded and housed in distinctive buildings - a Devonian thatched farmhouse, a Cornish tin mine's engine house."

Regional Challenge anticipates generating a million extra visitors by 1998.

Hotels cash in on a money spinner

By TONY DAWE

AS CRICKET'S World Cup moves into its closing stages, with England preparing for their quarter-final against Sri Lanka in Faisalabad on Saturday, a leading hotel chain is offering supporters the chance to watch the final on the big screen in style with the guidance of a top player.

Novotel is staging "World Cup weekends" at four city centre hotels on March 16 and 17 as part of a new pro-

briefing on the final from former England players including Dennis Amis, Derek Randall and John Edrich.

They can then either watch past World Cup highlights or retire to bed before a 3 o'clock wake-up call in time for the beginning of live coverage from Lahore of the match on the big screen, with a self-service buffet and hot drinks on the side.

Novotel is planning similar



Early breakfast with Mike Atherton's team

breaks linked to the Open Championship golf tournament at Royal Lytham St Annes and the British Grand Prix in July, which will also give guests the chance to play a round of golf or enter a go-kart grand prix.

Best Western Hotels is planning to go one better by offering more expensive "getaway breaks" which will include tickets to leading events. Among its offers are two nights at the Regent Hotel, Leamington Spa, and a track-side view of the Grand Prix at Silverstone.

"We sort out the tickets, organise the coach transport so guests are spared the hassle of parking and we generally strive to give them a trouble-free and enjoyable weekend," says Sue McCrete-Butcher, of Best Western.

Some Forte Hotels also offer guests activities such as horse riding and rock climbing.

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States liable for damages over EU incompatible laws

Brasserie du Pêcheur SA v Federal Republic of Germany
Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame Ltd and Others (No 4)

Joined Cases C-46/93 and C-48/93
Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kouris, D. A. O. Edwards, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schwaensche, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, C. Gulistan and J. L. Murray
Advocate General G. Tesauro
(Opinion November 28, 1995)
(Judgment March 5)

The principle that member states were obliged to make good damage caused to individuals by breaches of Community law attributable to the state was applicable where the national legislature was responsible for the breach.

Exemplary damages could be awarded against the state in claims or actions founded on Community law if they could be awarded in similar claims or actions founded on domestic law.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, in a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty by the Bundesgerichtshof (Federal Court of Justice), Germany in Case C-46/93, by order of January 28, 1993, and the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in Case C-48/93, by order of November 18, 1992.

Brasserie du Pêcheur, a French company, the plaintiff in Case C-46/93, claimed that it was forced to discontinue exports of beer to Germany because the German authorities considered that the beer did not comply with the purity requirement laid down in a German law.

The court had held in Case 178/84 *Commission v Germany* (The Times March 23, 1987; [1987] ECR I-227) that the prohibition was incompatible with article 30 of the Treaty, on the basis of a quantitative restriction on imports.

Factortame and the other applicants in Case C-48/93 challenged the compatibility of Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988 with Community law, in particular article 32 of the EC Treaty, on freedom of establishment.

In Case C-221/89 *R v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame Ltd (No 3)* (The Times September 16, 1991; [1992] QB 680; [1991] ECR I-3905) the European Court had held that the conditions relating to the nationality, residence and domicile of vessel owners and operators laid

down by the registration system in the 1988 Act, under which fishing boats ineligible for registration were deprived of the right to fish, were contrary to Community law.

In Case 246/89 *Commission v United Kingdom* (The Times October 28, 1989; [1989] ECR I-325), the President of the European Court granted an application by the Commission for interim measures ordering the suspension of the national provisions.

In further proceedings in both cases, claims were made for damages for loss suffered.

The national courts referred a number of questions concerning compensation to individuals for legislative breaches of Community law.

In its judgment, the European Court of Justice held, in Case C-46/93, that the principle of state liability for loss and damage caused to individuals as a result of breaches of Community law for which the state could be held responsible was inherent in the system of the Treaty.

That principle held good whatever the organ of the state whose act or omission was responsible for the breach.

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In the system of rules worked out by the Court with regard to article 215 of the Treaty, particularly in relation to liability for legislative measures, the Court had held that the legislative measures available to the institutions in implementing Community policies.

In both the instant cases, the legislatures had a wide discretion in the spheres in question, and so were faced with situations involving choices comparable to those made by the Community institutions when they adopted legislative measures pursuant to a Community policy.

In such circumstances, Community law conferred a right to reparation where three conditions were met: (i) the rule of law infringed must be intended to confer rights on individuals; (ii) the breach must be sufficiently serious; and (iii) there must be a direct causal link between the breach of the obligation resting on the state and the damage sustained by the injured parties.

The first condition was manifestly satisfied in the case of articles 30 and 52 of the Treaty.

As to the second condition, as regards the national liability under article 215 and member state liability for breaches of Community law, the decisive test for finding that a breach of Community law was sufficiently serious was whether the member state or the Community institution had manifestly and gravely disregarded the limits on its discretion.

The factors which could be taken into consideration included the clarity and precision of the rule breached, the duration of the breach, the knowledge of the national or Community authorities, whether the infringement and the damage caused were intentional or voluntary, whether any error of law was excusable, the fact that a position taken by a Community institution might have contributed to the breach, and the adoption or retention of national measures or practices contrary to Community law.

On any view, a breach of Community law would be sufficiently serious if it had persisted despite a judgment finding the infringement in question to be established, or a preliminary ruling or settled case law of the Court on the matter from which it was clear that the conduct in question constituted an infringement.

While in the present cases the European Court could not substitute its own view for that of the national courts, which had sole jurisdiction to

find the facts and decide how to characterise the breaches of Community law at issue, it would be helpful to indicate a number of circumstances which national courts might take into account.

In Case C-46/93, in particular, it would be difficult to regard the breach of article 30 by the German legislation relating to the designation of the product marketed as excusable, as the incompatibility of such rules with article 30 was manifest in the light of earlier decisions of the Court.

As to the legislation at issue in Case C-48/93, the decision of the United Kingdom legislature to introduce in the 1988 Act provisions relating to the conditions for the registration of fishing vessels were to be assessed differently in the case of the provisions making registration subject to a nationality condition, which constituted direct discrimination contrary to Community law, and in the case of the provisions laying down residence and domicile conditions for vessel owners and operators.

The latter conditions were prima facie incompatible with article 52 of the Treaty. In particular, the United Kingdom sought to justify them in terms of the common fisheries policy. In *Factortame (No 3)* the Court rejected that justification.

Further, in Case C-46/93, the United Kingdom had failed to adopt immediately measures to comply with the order of the President of the Court in Case 246/89 *Commission v United Kingdom*, and that that had needlessly increased the damage sustained by the applicants.

As for the third condition, it was for the national courts to determine whether there was such a direct causal link. Those three conditions were necessary and sufficient to found a right to reparation in individuals to obtain redress, but that did not mean that the state could not incur liability under less strict conditions.

As appeared from *Factortame* (paragraphs 41 to 43), the state must make reparation for the consequences of the loss and damage caused in accordance with domestic rules on liability, provided that the conditions thereof were not less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims or actions such as in practice to make it impossible

or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

In that regard, any condition that might be imposed by English law on state liability requiring proof of misfeasance in public office, such an abuse of power being inconceivable in the case of the legislature, was such as in practice to make it impossible or extremely difficult to obtain effective reparation for loss or damage resulting from a breach of Community law where the breach was attributable to the national legislature.

3 Fault
For reasons given by it, the Court held that the obligation to make reparation for loss or damage caused to individuals could not depend on a condition based on any concept of fault going beyond that of a serious breach of Community law.

4 Criteria for determining extent of reparation
Reparation for loss or damage caused to individuals as a result of breaches of Community law must be commensurate with the loss or damage sustained so as to ensure effective protection for their rights.

In the absence of relevant Community provisions, it was for the domestic legal system of each member state to set the criteria for determining the extent of reparation.

However, those criteria must not be less favourable than those applying to similar claims based on domestic law and must not be such as in practice to make it impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

In particular, in order to determine the loss or damage for which reparation might be granted, the national court could inquire whether the injured person had shown reasonable diligence to avoid the loss or damage or limit its extent and whether he availed himself in time of all the legal remedies available to him.

The Bundesgerichtshof asked whether national legislation could generally limit the obligation to make reparation to damage done to certain, specifically protected individual interests, for example property, or whether it should also cover loss of profit.

Those questions of loss of profit as a head of damage for which reparation

could be awarded in the case of a breach of Community law could not be accepted.

Especially in the context of economic or commercial litigation, such a total exclusion would make reparation of damage practically impossible.

Exemplary damages, referred to in one of the Divisional Court's questions, were based under domestic law on the finding that the public authorities had acted oppressively, arbitrarily or unconstitutionally.

In so far as such conduct might constitute an aggravate breach of Community law, an award of exemplary damages pursuant to a claim or action founded on Community law could not be ruled out if such damages could be awarded pursuant to a similar claim or action founded on domestic law.

5 Extent of the period covered by reparation
A member state's obligation to make reparation was not confined to loss or damage sustained after delivery of a judgment of the court finding the infringement in question.

A holding to the contrary would preclude any right to reparation so long as the presumed infringement had not been the subject of an action brought by the Commission under article 169 of the Treaty and of a finding of infringement by the Court.

Rights arising for individuals out of Community provisions having direct effect could not depend on the Commission's assessment of the expediency of taking action against a member state under article 169 or on delivery by the Court of any judgment finding an infringement.

The Court then held, for reasons given by it, that there was no need to limit the temporal effect of the present judgment.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice ruled:

1 The principle that member states were obliged to make good damage caused to individuals by breaches of Community law attributable to the state was applicable where the national legislature was responsible for the breach in question.

2 Where a breach of Community law by a member state was attributable to the national legislature acting in a field in which it had a wide discretion to make legislative choices, individuals suffering loss or injury thereby were entitled to reparation where the rule of Community law breached was intended to confer

rights on them, the breach was sufficiently serious, and there was a direct causal link between the breach and the damage sustained by the individuals.

Subject to that reservation, the state must make good the consequences of the loss or damage caused by the breach of Community law attributable to it, in accordance with its national law on liability.

However, the conditions laid down by the applicable national rules must not be less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims or framed in such a way as in practice to make it impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

3 Pursuant to the national legislation which it applied, reparation of loss or damage could not be made conditional on fault (intentional or negligent) on the part of the organ of the state responsible for the breach, going beyond that of a sufficiently serious breach of Community law.

4 Reparation by member states of loss or damage which they had caused to individuals as a result of breaches of Community law must be commensurate with the loss or damage sustained, so as to ensure effective protection for their rights.

In the absence of relevant Community provisions, it was for the domestic legal system of each member state to set the criteria for determining the extent of reparation.

However, those criteria must not be less favourable than those applying to similar claims or actions based on domestic law and must not be such as in practice to make it impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

National legislation which generally limited the damage for which reparation could be granted to damage done to certain, specifically protected individual interests not including loss of profit by individuals was not compatible with Community law.

Moreover, it must be possible to award specific damages, such as the exemplary damages provided for by English law, pursuant to claims or actions founded on Community law, if such damages could be awarded pursuant to similar claims or actions founded on domestic law.

5 The obligation for member states to make good loss or damage caused to individuals by breaches of Community law attributable to the state could not be limited to damages sustained after the delivery of a judgment of the court finding the infringement in question.

Chancery Division

Litigant need not suffer for lawyer's fault

Pereira v Beaulands

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker
(Judgment February 27)

There was no principle of law that the defaults, whether by act or omission, of a litigant's solicitor must inevitably be laid at the door of the litigant himself.

In particular, where prejudice to a plaintiff was not a necessary element in his claim to bar the defence of an action, for example, where that claim was founded on the defendant's non-compliance, for which his solicitor was solely responsible, with an "unless" order, neither principle nor authority required that such claim had to be upheld.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by the defendant, Douglas St John Webster Beaulands, from an order of deputy Master Wall on August 8, 1995, (i) declaring that the defendant held the estate of Dennis Russell Dunn subject to due administration upon completion of the trust for the plaintiff, Arthur Pereira, and (ii) ordering, inter alia, that the defendant do vest that estate in the plaintiff.

Mr Piers Feltham for the plaintiff, Mr Christopher Semken for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that Mr Dunn, a bachelor, died intestate in 1991, his next of kin being mainly nephews and nieces.

Mr Andrew H. Theaker, a sole practitioner, was instructed and

letters of administration were in December 1992 granted to the defendant, who was beneficially entitled to only 5 per cent of the net estate.

On July 5, 1993 the plaintiff issued a writ claiming (i) a declaration that the defendant held the estate subject to due administration, upon constructive trust for the plaintiff and (ii) an order for reparation, it was claimed, of the court's case law on non-contractual liability on the part of the Community, as the protection of the rights which individuals derived from Community law could not vary depending on whether a national authority or a Community one was responsible for the damage.

The statement of claim set out allegations of promises made by Mr Dunn to leave his entire estate to the plaintiff and many subsequent services performed for him by the plaintiff, concluding that the defendant, as personal representative of Mr Dunn, was estopped from denying the claim.

A defence, mainly non-admissions, and request for particulars ensued in September 1993. In January 1995 a master made a routine order for discovery, exchange of witness statements and affidavits, by him of his list of documents followed by inspection seven days thereafter "and in default thereof the defendant be debarred from defending the action and judgment be entered for the plaintiff".

Finally on August 8, on a summons issued on July 18, Dep-

uty Master Wall, the defendant again unrepresented, had made the order under appeal, notice of which had been promptly served, on the basis of the defendant's current solicitors.

Mr Semken attacked that order for directing that Mr Dunn's estate, rather than his net estate, be vested in the plaintiff; and for containing a declaration of right such as was not normally appropriate in a default judgment. *Wallerstein v Moir* ([1991] 1 WLR 991).

Those points had narrowly persuaded his Lordship to hold that the deputy master's order was sufficiently irregular to be set aside.

But that holding was of secondary importance to the main issue: whether discretion should be exercised in the defendant's favour after non-compliance with an "unless" order: see *Samuels v Lind* [1988] QB 1156, 1267; *Caribbean General Insurance v Fitzell* ([1994] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 32, 40; *Allen v Taylor* ([1992] PIQR 255, 288) citing from *Alpine Bulk Transport Co Inc v Saudi Eagle Shipping Co Ltd* ([1986] Lloyd's Rep. 221) and *In re Joki Tea Holdings Ltd* ([1992] 1 WLR 1106, 1203) where Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, as Vice-Chancellor, had said "where the court has to decide... the consequences of a failure to comply with an 'unless' order, the relevant question is whether such failure is intentional and contumacious. The court should not be astute to find excuses for such failure since obedience to orders of

the court is the foundation on which its authority is founded."

Mr Semken had urged that: 1 Although the court could not provide an "unless" order, it was, in the instant case, there was no evidence of any default by his client personally;

2 The plaintiff alleged no actual prejudice flowing from breach of the discovery order, documents in his client's possession or power being few and of trivial importance;

3 His client was not seeking to be allowed to defend primarily in a fiduciary capacity.

Those points would strongly dispose his Lordship to exercise his discretion in the defendant's favour, the law required defaults by a litigant's solicitor always to be laid at the litigant's door.

His Lordship then examined *Birkett v James* ([1978] AC 297, 318, 324; *Department of Transport v Chris Smaller (Transport)* ([1989] AC 197, 1207); *Grand Metropolitan plc v British Gas* ([1992] 2 All ER 100, 101) and *Musaphis v Southwark London Borough Council* (unreported, November 7, 1995; CA (Civ Div) Transcript No 1356 of 1995, pp-6 and 9) and concluded, taking guidance from *Alpine Bulk Transport* and *Allen v Taylor*, that justice required that he should set aside the deputy master's order and extend the defendant's time for giving discovery.

Solicitors: Gillian Radford & Co, North Kensington; Dean Wilson, Brighton.

Law Report March 7 1996

Regina v Dragic

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth,
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice
Curry and Mr Justice Gage
(Judgment February 27)

No statutory provision or legal precedent justified a submission that a trial judge was wrong to have admitted in evidence several statements made by a witness to a jury who was later found to be lying and was operated upon so that he was and would remain unfit for an indeterminate time to give evidence at the trial of a man he had identified as being involved in the burglary.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Filip Dragic, aged 30, against conviction at Luton Crown Court (Judge Moss and a jury) on a single count of burglary, for which he was sentenced to three years imprisonment. He had been tried jointly with Alan Barry Walker, who pleaded guilty and was put on probation for two years with a condition that he have psychiatric treatment.

Section 23 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides:

"(1) ... a statement made by a person in a document shall be admissible in criminal proceedings as evidence of any fact of which direct oral evidence by him would be admissible if ...

"(2) ... the person who made the statement is ... by reason of his bodily ... condition unfit to attend as a witness ..."

Section 26 provides: "Where a statement which is admissible in criminal proceedings by virtue of section 23 ... appears to the court to have been prepared ... for the purposes ... (a) of pending or contemplated criminal proceedings ... the statement shall not be given in evidence in any criminal proceedings without the leave of the court, and the court shall not give leave unless it is of the opinion that the statement ought to be admitted in the interests of justice; and in considering whether its admission would be in the interests of justice, it shall be the duty of the court to take regard ... (i) to the contents of the statement and to any risk, having regard in particular to whether it is likely to be possible to controvert the statement if the person making it does not attend to give oral evidence in the proceedings, that its admission or exclusion will result in unfairness to the accused or ... (ii) to any other circumstances that appear to the court to be relevant."

Mr John M. H. Lee, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Miss Isabel Delamere for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the trial judge wrongly exercised discretion in allowing the Crown under section 23 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to read the contents of the witness statements of an ill witness who was the sole identification witness in a case where there was no scientific or other evidence against the appellant and where the defence was alibi.

The submissions made to the trial judge were that it was not in the interests of justice for the statements to be admitted. The argument was that, since the witness was the sole witness identifying the appellant as one of the burglars and the witness could not be cross-examined, his admission would result in unfairness to the appellant.

The trial judge, in a reasoned ruling, in which he referred to the

leading cases on the topic which had been drawn to his attention, rejected the submission and the appellant was convicted.

On appeal, Mr Lee had raised the same arguments and submitted that the judge was wrong in his ruling. He submitted that where, as in the present case, the prosecution evidence was predominantly, or almost totally, the evidence of the witness who could not attend, it was not in the interests of justice to allow the statements to go before the jury in circumstances where it could not be challenged by cross-examination.

He submitted that it was important not only that the jury should hear the witness cross-examined but also to see his demeanour, but departed somewhat from that in trial after contested criminal proceedings where the witness had been cross-examined and the cross-examination reduced to writing.

His submission seemed to come to this: unless there was other evidence on which the issue to

which the absent witness's evidence related and could be cross-examined in the jury's presence, it would be unfair to admit the absent witness's statement under section 23 of the 1988 Act.

His Lordship said that that was a bold submission which found no support in the statutory provisions or, as Miss Delamere submitted, in any of the authorities.

She referred to the alibi notice which had been served and, in those circumstances, it was possible for the absent witness's statement to be controverted without his being available for cross-examination.

His Lordship, having considered the wording of sections 23 and 26 of the 1988 Act, *R v Cole* ([1990] 1 WLR 866), *Scott v The Queen* ([1989] AC 1242; *R v Price* [1991] Crim LR 882), and having distinguished *R v French* ([1993] 97 Cr App R 421) and *R v Lockley*, *R v Corah* (The Times June 27, 1995), concluded that, in short, their Lordships could find no justification in either the statute or the

cases which had considered the provisions of sections 23 and 26 of the 1988 Act to justify the submissions made by Mr Lee.

In the present case the trial judge had clearly weighed the relevant considerations, his attention had been drawn to Cole and he had exercised his discretion to admit the statements.

Their Lordships could see no reason for saying that he was wrong in doing that.

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Luton.

Court of Appeal

Illness justifies admission of statement

Correction

In *Mackenzie v Business Magazine (UK) Ltd and Others* (The Times March 5) Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC and Miss Alexandra Maraziti, instructed by David Price & Co, acted for the appellant defendants; and Mr Hugh Tomlinson, instructed by Freere Cholmeley Bischoff, for the plaintiff.

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Zodiac frustrated by Olympic time warp

Kate Staples has one foot in a futuristic world and the other in a world which has been slow to change. Staples, Zodiac in the *Gladiators* television series, is also the British record-holder for the women's pole vault, an event which finally lands on earth tomorrow after much time in orbit.

One hundred years after the first modern Olympic Games included pole vaulting for men, the first international championship for women takes place tomorrow in the European indoor championships here in Stockholm. But still they are visitors from outer space, to be welcomed politely then sent on their way by sport's politicians, who do not want them at the Atlanta Games this summer.

Staples has heard the arguments — too dangerous for women, potential damage to the uterus — but regards the people who think that way as several stars short of a full constellation. "Why are we allowed to compete in the Europeans, grand prix meetings, national championships then, all of a sudden, we are left out?" Staples asked.

The reminders keep coming. "Nick Buckfield [the men's British record-holder], whom I train with, is often talking about going to the Olympics," Staples said. When she received this week from the British Olympic Association, details of the Olympic passport scheme, it was salt in her wounds.

Instead, while the Olympics are on, Staples will be filming another series of *Gladiators*. She would rather be in Atlanta and see the day soon when the bright lights of *Gladiators*, with its 15 million viewers, give way to athletics. The move in that direction has cost her some £30,000 in promo-



David Powell on the gladiator who wants to make the pole vault the height of her ambition

tional work with *Gladiators* during the past two months alone. Can't appear as Zodiac gone pole vaulting.

Is it worth it? "Yes, I love it," Staples said. "If I do not jump higher, at least I will say: 'Okay, that was my limit, but I put everything into it.'"

The Olympics introduced a women's marathon in 1984, the 10,000 metres in 1988, and Atlanta will be the first Games with a women's 5,000 metres. All that is missing on the track is the steeplechase. The field events, though, are still locked in the past. The triple jump in Atlanta will be



Staples as Zodiac

the first new women's field event on the Olympic programme since 1948. The pole vault and hammer, though accepted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation as legitimate disciplines for women, must wait.

The British indoor record is 3.85 metres, the world indoor record 4.28 metres, held by Sun Caiyun, from China. A four metres clearance may

earn a medal tomorrow and Peter Sutcliffe, who coaches Staples, describes her training form as "very promising", her prospects of four metres as "very good". She would probably have been over four metres by now had she not suffered a neck injury last July and distress from the death of her father in January.

Filming for *Gladiators*, Staples fell from 40 feet without a neck brace and, though she landed on an air bag, she suffered prolapsed discs. "I had two doctors say that was my time, that it was permanent, but I went to see Kevin Lidlow, the British team physio, and it is getting better every week."

Sutcliffe's view that his athlete's potential lies beyond four metres is based on the height she has achieved despite the interruptions. "We have not approached anywhere near what I would like to have accomplished in training," Sutcliffe said.

Furthermore, Staples has yet to use a left bin pole but, provided she clears the early heights, she intends to do so tomorrow. She set her British record on a 14ft pole. Is it not risky to change now? "Yes," admitted Sutcliffe, but Staples will take it to the limit.

"Kate has an ideal temperament," Sutcliffe said. "She is highly competitive and it is one of the strongest aspects of her vaulting. She has begun to put things together. She feels, as I do, that she can be very, very good." As optimistic as if it were written in the stars.



Staples is aiming to reach new heights at the European indoor championships

Academic elite strike a blow for the noble art

Srikumar Sen finds that the much-criticised sport of boxing is thriving in universities

After some gloomy forecasts about the future of boxing as a result of it not being followed in most schools, it is heartening to know that the sport is not only being practised in universities, but thriving in some as well.

Last year there were fears that Cambridge might end its 98-year association with boxing but the university club was still punching away at the Fenner's gym last week preparing for the university match. Indeed, the Cambridge captain, Nick Lois, an engineering student from Cyprus, said his team was much stronger this year and could end Oxford's ten-year domination when the sides meet at Oxford town hall tonight.

But it is Oxford that has made the most impressive progress. The club which boasts old Blues such as Colin Moynihan, the former Minister for Sport, Wilfred Thesiger, the explorer, and Kris Kristofferson, was almost disbanded in 1969.

It was rescued in the Seventies by Bob Nairn, the Oxford captain, who was later kidnapped and killed by the IRA.

Now, thanks to the efforts of its two coaches, Henry Dean, a former amateur boxer, and Percy Lewis, who as a professional in the Fifties was the Empire featherweight champion, and the club's administrator, Tim Fell, a fellow of Linacre, the OUBC has continued to prosper.

Barry McGuigan, who was invited last Tuesday to the Iffley Road gym to put the finishing touches to Oxford's training was astounded by the enthusiasm of the undergraduates. "I never imagined there was so many boxers at the university," McGuigan said. "I was particularly struck by their enthusiasm. They are in love with the game."

"I was surprised that people who are the brains of Britain were interested in our sport."

As chairman of the Professional Boxers' Association I was encouraged to think that boxing has a good future.

"There are different levels of competitiveness but those who are good are very good. What I liked was they are such nice fellows, so controlled, but once they get the gloves on they want to take your head off."

Oxford's best boxer is Alex Mehta, a light-welterweight and a law student from Oriel College. "There is no difference between a boxer in the ring and a barrister in court," he said.

"One fights with his hands, the other with his mind. The tools are different, the skills are the same."

"It's aggressive, violent and sometimes a brutal sport. When you climb in the ring you lose part of your humanity. You only realise how precious something is when you lose it. So when I climb out of the ring my humanity comes flooding back. The first thing I want to do is give my mum a big hug and tell my girlfriend I love her and be good to people."

Fell is the guiding force behind the club. He is aptly named as he is one of the country's leading bungee jumpers and designed the terrifying 600-foot drop in the James Bond film, *Goldeneye*.

He became interested in boxing when, as an undergraduate at Oxford, he was taken to a university boxing match by a friend. With the help of sponsorship from Price Waterhouse and P&O, he turned the club into a dynamic one.

Next year, being the centenary year of the fixture, Fell plans to take the match to the Albert Hall or Wembley Arena. "I intend to make it a special year," Fell said. "There are those that don't want us to succeed and would like to ban boxing... but I'm always one jump ahead of them."



I'm surprised that the brains of Britain are interested in our sport

France stick by replacements

THREE players who took the field as replacements in France's 45-10 win over Ireland last month retain their places for their final rugby union five nations' championship match of the season, against Wales in Cardiff on March 16, when victory will, in all probability, earn France the title (David Hands writes).

Stephane Glas, the touring centre, displaced Thierry Lacroix, who was hailed at the start of the championship as the answer to France's problems at stand-

off half but has now been dropped, while Jean-Michel Gonzalez reverts to the replacements, having lost the hooking position to Marc de Rougemont, of Toulon.

The third player to hold his position is Sylvain Digne, the Toulouse No 8, ahead of the young Fabien Pelous.

However, France welcome back Richard Dourthe, if only as a replacement. Dourthe was suspended for two matches by the French federation after a kicking incident involving Ben Clarke in the game

against England in January. Having served his time, Dourthe, the Dax centre, receives what is in effect a vote of confidence and will doubtless reappear in the side on tour in Argentina this summer.

TEAMS: J. Sadourny (Clermont), E. Narmack (Toulouse), S. Glas (Bourgen), O. Campan (Agen), P. Saint-Andre (Aix-Marseille), F. Tournaire (Toulon), G. Accornero (Stade-Bordeaux), C. Castillon (Toulouse), M. de Rougemont (Toulon), J. Pelous (Toulon), R. Dourthe (Dax), A. Benvenuti (Agen), O. Hourcade (Dax), L. Cabannes (Pau), S. Digne (Toulouse), B. de Lamoignon (Toulon), D. Bessis (Montpellier), R. Dourthe (Dax), A. Penard (Bordeaux), F. Gauthier (Clermont), O. Brouzet (Bordeaux), J.-M. Gonzalez (Bayonne), M. Fell (Toulon).

England victory lacks authority

ENGLAND, eager to stop Scotland from winning the Hilton Trophy for a sixth successive time, produced an unconvincing victory over the perennial strugglers, Ireland, when the home international indoor bowls series started at Auchinleck yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

The three England new caps, Stuart Airey, John Leeman and Paul Bennett, performed creditably in a 123-106 win, and David Cutler, recalled after eight years, combined so well with Andy

Thomson that Thomson's rink won by 16 shots.

Tony Alcock's rink, however, found themselves in trouble after 14 ends, when Stevie Adamson's quartet led 14-6, but they recovered well to win 20-18. Greg Harlow, skipping for England for the first time, lost 22-19 to Roy McCune, the Ireland captain, after trailing 16-9.

Despite Steve Moran's 23-14 win over John Bell, one of England's senior players, a 55-49 advantage to Ireland at the halfway stage was overturned

as England stamped their authority on the final ends.

Margaret Maltby, Audrey Whatford and Pat Clark, of Padbrook Park, Devon, won the English women's national indoor triples championship at Banister Park, Eastleigh, yesterday, beating Carol Chambers, Pearl Elwell and Pauline Marples, of Bassetlaw (Worksop), 16-14. Counts of three on the fifteenth and sixteenth ends for Padbrook Park proved decisive in an otherwise closely-contested match.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
If West had asked himself "would he have done this if he had that?" he might have got this defence right.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ J3 ♥ QJ ♦ QJ1095 ♣ 98732	♠ A52 ♥ 942 ♦ 7642 ♣ QJ10	♠ A52 ♥ 942 ♦ 7642 ♣ QJ10

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Jack of hearts
South opened One Spade, North replied INT and raised South's Three Spade rebid to Four Spades. West led the jack of hearts. Declarer won in dummy, and played a diamond to his ace. He continued by ruffing the king of hearts in dummy and then leading the queen of diamonds, discarding a club from hand. What should West do when he wins the king of diamonds?

At the table West decided that the declarer must have losing clubs to play in this manner, and so switched to the king of clubs. That was the end of the defence — the declarer won, ruffed his ace of hearts in dummy and discarded his last club on the jack of diamonds. He eventually made four spade tricks, the queen of hearts and two heart ruffs, two diamond tricks and the ace of clubs.

As you can see, West can beat the contract by leading a spade when he is in with the king of diamonds. Can he find that play? I think so — West can place South with either the

ace of clubs or the ace of spades. If South had ace-queen-ten of spades he would have played trumps at trick two — his best chance would be to find East with Kxpx of spades. With that trump holding, taking heart ruffs in dummy would kill his chance of picking up the spades. So West should assume South's trump holding is not so robust, and play the king of spades when he wins the king of diamonds. (The king of spades is correct, to cater for East having three spades to the ten.)

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Title defence
Continuing my tribute to Alexander Alekhine, who died half a century ago this year, the game today comes from his first title defence as world champion against Efim Bogolyubov, the dangerous Russian grandmaster.

Bogolyubov had established his right to a challenge by numerous impressive tournament victories during the 1920s, ahead of top players of the day including Lasker, Capablanca and Nimzowitsch. Bogolyubov's best results had been impressive first prizes at the international tournaments of Moscow, 1925 and Bad Kissingen, 1928.

Alekhine's match against Capablanca was characterised by a patient war of attrition, but his title defence against Bogolyubov could not have formed a greater contrast.

Both sides boldly entered obscure and unbalanced tactical situations with little thought for their own safety.

Sadly for Bogolyubov, Alekhine excelled in tactical r  les, and the Russian challenger was slaughtered. The following attacking masterpiece is typical of the way that play developed.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Efim Bogolyubov
World championship, 1929

Grunfeld Defence
1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 f3 d5
4 cxd5 Nxd5
5 e4 Nc6

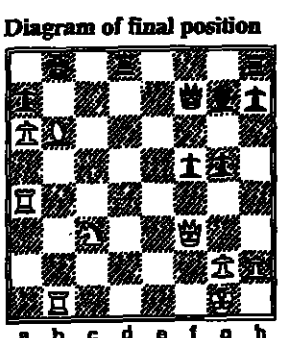


Diagram of final position

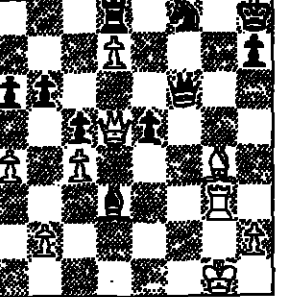
Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nei — Petrosian, Soviet Union, 1960. White to play. Black threatens ... Qf1 mate, but White has a chance to get in first. Can you see how?



Solution on page 41

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- OXYMORON**
a. A fool
b. A university flunk
c. A contradiction
- THIASMUS**
a. A rhetorical contrast
b. A shapeless mass
c. A yawning gap
- ALPHA PRIVATIVE**
a. Just below first-class
b. Non
c. A top-quality photograph
- TILDE**
a. A diacritic
b. A grave accent
c. A sloping hand

Answers on page 41

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Aggressive Villeneuve drives away the doubts

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN MELBOURNE

THE cautious ones beat about the bush. They prevaricate about Jacques Villeneuve, add all sorts of riders about his prospects. It is his first season, too much to expect him to win the Formula One motor racing world championship this year, has to learn the circuits, has to get used to the cars. Give him a bit of time.

Bernie Ecclestone never beats about the bush. Before Villeneuve had even sat in a Formula One car, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, the most powerful man in the sport, talked about the young Canadian as if he were a Messiah. "He is the only one who can give Schumacher some stick," he said. "If I was a betting man, I might have money on him this season."

Perhaps it is the return of the Villeneuve name that excites him. Good for box office to have the son of Gilles, the passionate, romantic, tragic

Gilles, in the sport and in the best car, too. Even better that he is the reigning IndyCar series champion. One in the eye for the Americans, that it makes sense to talk him up.

Whatever it is, Ecclestone is showing no signs of tempering his enthusiasm for Damon Hill's new Williams-Renault team-mate now that the new season is upon us. "He will do



Villeneuve: honesty

what ever he has to do at the time to get the result," he said. "He is like Senna as a person and Prost as a driver."

Enough said.

When you see Villeneuve, see him shuffling through the garage in his glasses, hair thinning prematurely, sticking up in tufts, it is hard to believe this is the small man all the fuss is about. Hard to believe that he is an accomplished skier who lives in Monaco, hard to believe, in fact, that this is the son of Gilles Villeneuve. He looks anonymous, unassertive. When you sit down opposite him, talk to him, the doubts vanish.

His aggressive honesty strikes you first, the candour that prevents him from indulging people who want to be told that he was thinking about his father, who was killed during qualifying for the Belgian Grand Prix at Zolder in 1982, at this time or that time. "Why would I be thinking about him now," Villeneuve said after he won

the Indianapolis 500 last year. "I wouldn't be thinking of him if he was alive, why should I be thinking of him because he is dead?"

Now, after five months of questions from Formula One journalists, who wanted to know the same thing, his attitude has not softened. "I have always known I could make everybody happy by

lying. But, I don't know, I just can't."

"People called my mother after what I said at Indianapolis and said 'I was ungrateful and why was I saying these things about my father. I was very surprised. The more you lie, the worse you feel. If you want to be true with yourself, you have to be true with everybody.'"

Berger fires from lip

AS FORMULA One drivers prepared in Melbourne yesterday to take to the track, today, for the first practice session of the new season, Gerhard Berger tore apart Michael Schumacher's attempts to play down his chances of winning the world championship this year for Ferrari (Oliver Holt writes).

"When he first tested last year's Ferrari," Berger said, "he said what a great car it was and how he was surprised that the team had not won more races in it. The next

minute he is saying that he only expects to win a couple of races in the new model. Is he trying to tell everyone that Ferrari have made a worse car for this season?"

There have been suggestions from within Ferrari that they consider Schumacher to be a second lap quicker than any other driver, but Berger countered with: "If Ferrari maintain that he is so much faster than the rest, then what happens if he qualifies fourth on the grid? What does that say about the car?"

Villeneuve, 24, has made his way to Formula One via an unusually circuitous route. First, it was Italian Formula Three, where "everyone wanted to be a hero, to be the next Formula One star", then to Japanese Formula Three, which allowed him to grow up, to party in Tokyo and discover his racing self. "Japan taught me that racing is racing and that being on the edge is what you enjoy. It taught me Formula One was not the only place I had to put my butt."

From Japan, where he learnt a smattering of the language to go with his fluent French, Italian and English, he went to the Indy Lights series in the United States and then progressed to two successful years in IndyCars, culminating in victory at Indianapolis and the securing of the championship last year.

Not even when he was struggling in his first year in Italy did he doubt he would be where he is now, that he would be the best. Self-doubt

afflicts even the most talented but it seems it has never bothered Villeneuve.

"No, I never thought I might fail. Even in Italy, that thought wasn't there. That is not a thought that has occurred to me since I was born. I always felt I would make it in racing since as far back as I can remember. That was what I was going to be and that was it. To know that you can make it, you have to feel that if you work at it, you are going to get to a high level. It doesn't just fall on you. Has my confidence ever been shaken? Not yet."

And so it does not seem to worry him that Hill has been slightly quicker in pre-season testing. "I have had to adapt to the car, so I'm not paying too much attention to times," Villeneuve said.

The cautious still say the championship will be out of reach this season, but Villeneuve, the man with the mind of Senna and the clinical driving style of Prost, you sense, is with Bernie Ecclestone on that one.

Crossley's agility limits deficit Klinsmann poses main threat to Forest's progress

WHAT an eternal contradiction football can be. Denied the frenzy, and the errors, of the domestic English game — a television hot-cake world-wide seller because of its action — Nottingham Forest's UEFA Cup encounter with Bayern Munich was, now and then, almost boring because of the orderliness of its inter-passing, play and counterplay.

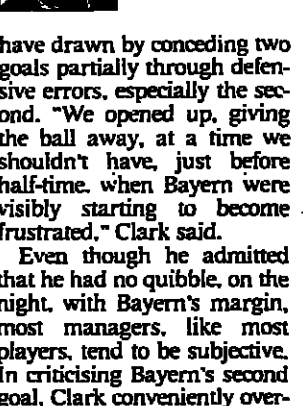
So where lies the answer for English clubs, for English managers such as Frank Clark? Somewhere in between, I suppose, which is about where Forest are: highly competent, without being like trophy winners. Educated in a European Cup-winning team under Brian Clough, Clark is pursuing sound policies. Had he not been obliged to sell Collymore, Forest might well be in contention to be among the front rank of Europe.

The only serious difference between Forest and the Bundesliga leaders is Jürgen Klinsmann, still sharp enough to be a continual threat on Tuesday night, scorer of the first goal — when unmarked! — and only denied a second, which would have given Bayern a 3-1 margin in the quarter-final first leg, by one of Mark Crossley's several exceptional saves. By comparison, I would have fired Campbell and Roy for lack of effort.

In any such international fixture, never mind disjointed creative service from midfield, any forward should leave the pitch exhausted from a ceaseless attempt to shut down, or at least limit, opposing defenders in possession. Campbell and Roy, though paid thousands a week, barely broke sweat. Clark, conversely, said their performances were acceptable.

His disappointment lay in the fact that Forest lost an away leg which they might

David Miller says a shortage of forward power is handicapping England's Uefa Cup contenders



have drawn by conceding two goals partially through defensive errors, especially the second. "We opened up, giving the ball away, at a time we shouldn't have, just before half-time, when Bayern were visibly starting to become frustrated," Clark said.

Even though he admitted that he had no quibble, on the night, with Bayern's margin, most managers, like most players, tend to be subjective. In criticising Bayern's second goal, Clark conveniently over-

looked the fact that Bayern were unlucky not to have regained the lead moments beforehand, when Crossley surprisingly dropped a long diagonal cross from the veteran Matthias. Nowadays suspect through injury, Matthias played mostly so deep as a sweeper, he might have been one of the ball boys behind the goal.

I thought the first goal conceded, after 17 minutes, to be the more glaring error. For the second, the ball was given away in Bayern's half of the field, and the highly promising Scholl cut through the heart of an off-guard defence to take Storz's return pass and sweep the ball wide of Crossley.

For the first, Zickler, who

played wide on the right, crossed high into the goalmouth. Haaland, deputising for the suspended Cooper — who missed his first match of the season and was a serious loss — was caught ball-watching three yards the wrong side of Klinsmann, and that was that.

If Forest might have been dismayed, they were reassured barely a minute later, Clark said afterwards that Forest had been aware, from a study of videos, that Bayern were possibly vulnerable on crosses to the far post from wide on the left. The homework proved an investment. Kahn, the Bayern goalkeeper, flapped limply at a free kick and missed. Cheltie, from a seemingly impossible angle, wide of the post on the right and standing almost on the by-line, headed fiercely into an empty net.

Occasionally in the second half, Stone and Woon, counter-attacking from deep, might have unhinged the Germans, but it was Bayern who came closest to scoring at least twice more, both times thwarted by Crossley.

First he made a remarkable double save, deflecting Helm's close-range header on to the crossbar, then immediately scrambling off the ground to turn Kreuzer's header from the rebound over the top; then he dropped on to Klinsmann's header from no more than five yards.

"We will have to play better at home than we did tonight," Clark said. For a start, they should put greater pressure on Matthias. Bayern are anything but safe.



Dumitrescu is confident that he will finally become a West Ham player next week

Permit victory for Dumitrescu

CHANGES to the criteria used in assessing work permit applications for footballers will be announced at a press conference at the Department for Education and Employment today (David Maddock writes).

It means Ilie Dumitrescu and Marc Hottiger are almost certain to be granted permits after initially having them refused.

Dumitrescu moved from Tottenham Hotspur to West Ham United, and Hottiger from Newcastle to Everton. The pair, however, were refused new permits,

despite being internationals, because they had not appeared in at least 70 per cent of their former clubs' matches.

Cheryl Gillam, a junior minister at the department, set up a summit with the Football Association, FA Carling Premiership, the Professional Footballers' Association and the Scottish Football Association after criticism of the system, which ignored the international claims on both players. Dumitrescu, with Romania, Hottiger with Switzerland.

The indications are that the

outcome will support both players' applications. "From what I have been told I am hoping to have clearance through early next week, which would allow me to play for West Ham at Newcastle," Dumitrescu said last night.

Manchester City are likely to sign two more overseas players. Giuseppe Mazzarella, a midfielder player from FC Zurich of Switzerland, is on trial at Maine Road and Alan Bell, the City manager, agreed yesterday to sign Mikhail Kavelashvili, a Georgia international forward.

Barbarians have no answer to Townsend

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON have been averaging 50 points a game in the league this season. In the guise of East Midlands yesterday they could not quite manage the same, beating the Barbarians 47-19 in the annual Mobbs memorial match at Franklin's Gardens. Even so, they managed to reverse the trend in favour of the invitation club.

East Midlands would have included eight internationals had not Jonathan Bell, of Ireland, withdrawn with flu and, as Northampton, their recruitment for the first division next season will be careful. "We are not in the habit of stockpiling players and we have turned down a number of internationals this season," Geoff Allen, their chief executive, said.

Their confident, flowing rugby was evident to a crowd exceeding 5,000, with the catalyst the brilliant Scot, Gregor Townsend. His change of pace dumbfounded a number of wise old heads among the Barbarians, and his influence paved the way for a 28-14 interval lead. He also scored two tries after the break.

However, the Barbarians did provide a memorable moment for Colin Johnson, 43, who has been locking the scrum for Bishop's Stortford for more than a generation. He scored their first try.

SCOTLAND: Northampton unless stated; 1 Hunter; 2 Townsend; 3 Allen; 4 McIvor; 5 Grayson; 6 Dawson; 7 Volland; 8 Biddow; 9 Allen; 10 Rodger; 11 Campbell; 12 Phillips; 13 Bedford; 14 Pootney; 15 G. Seely; 16 Best; 17 replaced by R. Thompson; 18 (Murray); Dawson replaced by S. Dawson; 19 (Townsend); 20 replaced by P. Osborne; 21 (Townsend); 22 replaced by P. Osborne; 23 replaced by S. Fells; 24 replaced by S. Fells; 25 replaced by S. Fells; 26 replaced by S. Fells; 27 replaced by S. Fells; 28 replaced by S. Fells; 29 replaced by S. Fells; 30 replaced by S. Fells; 31 replaced by S. Fells; 32 replaced by S. Fells; 33 replaced by S. Fells; 34 replaced by S. Fells; 35 replaced by S. Fells; 36 replaced by S. Fells; 37 replaced by S. Fells; 38 replaced by S. Fells; 39 replaced by S. Fells; 40 replaced by S. Fells; 41 replaced by S. Fells; 42 replaced by S. Fells; 43 replaced by S. Fells; 44 replaced by S. Fells; 45 replaced by S. Fells; 46 replaced by S. Fells; 47 replaced by S. 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A picture of perfect harmony at the coal face

Clifford Jones, sec. was adamant, a-da-mant. The stereotype of the Welshman working down the pit, singing and playing rugby, was a media myth. "It's not true," protested the new manager of Tower Colliery. He glanced down at his watch — just time for a few place-kicks before choir practice.

That last sentence is not true by the way, but it might easily have been. For John Alexander's film for *Modern Times* (BBC2) last night confirmed as many preconceptions about the Welsh as it dismissed. Its soundtrack may have been a commendably choir-free zone, but they are digging coal again at Tower — thanks to 240 miners who paid £8,000 each to buy the pit from British Coal.

His story was told with the sort of sing-song eloquence that I thought had disappeared when Neil Kinnock was packed off to

Brussels. They may have shut down the outside-half factory, but Wales is still turning out natural born orators like they are going out of fashion. Which, thanks to Kinnock, they largely have.

Like you or I, there is something undeniably impressive about a Welsh public speaker in full flow. There is the passion (or for apoplexy) and the repetition (lots). But most of all there is that unshakable conviction that it doesn't really matter in what order the words come out, it will still sound beautiful.

On the basis of this film, Alexander is not a fly-on-the-wall director. He favours the set pieces — the marches, the meetings and the ministerial visits. It is a style that suited our long-suffering hero, Tyrone O'Sullivan, who there's a good Welsh name, O'Sullivan was the poacher-turned-gamekeeper, the branch secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers who, in the new order, had become personnel director. He is, in short, a man accustomed to spending time on his hind legs.

We saw him magnificent with the megaphone. "People tell me I'm a bit of a Tower," he said. "I'm not. I'm just a bit of a Tower." We saw him wounded after being forced from NUM office. "It's been my life [pause] all my life." But just as it was ready to dismiss him as yet another Welsh windbag, he delivered a genuinely touching speech to a reunion of retired miners, miners these days are catching too old to share in the brave new world of profits, dividends and stock market flotations.

To a certain extent, the pit's success was the film's weakness. Barring an old fashioned squabble over differentials, the mine's first year was a dazzling triumph. Although they grumbled about directors' fees, the miners themselves had become capitalists, adamant, a-da-mant, that the re-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Having grown fat on a documentary diet of set-back and adversity, this took a bit of getting used to. What was fascinating though, was the impact success had had on the workforce, demonstrated at the first annual general meeting.

wards ahead should be kept for the founding shareholders, rather than any lean-come-latelies. New workers should be on contract, suggested one to applause.

This produced howls of socialist indignation from... the board of directors. "Bloody ridiculous. We set this company up to give people, working people, a fair share and a fair shake in life... fulminated O'Sullivan. Clearly not a man to be kabbled by anyone.

One of the cornerstones of the programme that followed, *A Man's World* (BBC2), was that big boys don't cry. This is, of course, nonsense. Stick a group of Welshmen in front of a video of Five Nations' victories from the 1970s and you'll have them blubbing like babies before you can say JPR Williams.

Along with being good at games and physically brave, learning to control emotion was an essential part of boyhood in the early half of

the century. This was rather more dangerous ground than perhaps the makers of *A Man's World* had realised, their clever mix of personal testimony and archive footage being haunted by a million parodies that have gone before.

For times were tough in them days. Tough, you call not crying when you were caned on the hand or when your mother sent you to boarding school, tough. You were lucky to have a mother — or a hand, come to that.

Not that it was all bad, oh no. I remember when you could go round the world, buy a season ticket to Frensham North End and take your girl to the pictures every night for a month... and still have change from half a crown. And people used to say good morning to you in the street.

Rather a lot of last night's programme was like that. But the

obvious sincerity of the participants together with the inspired choice of Tom Georgeson (last seen in *Between the Lines*) as narrator, just about kept the giggles under control. But then big boys don't do that either.

In search of something a little more contemporary I turned to ER (Channel 4) and discovered that the American-made series had a timing problem of its own — it was Christmas in the emergency room. We knew it was Christmas because Carol was singing carols, there was a patient with a white beard suffering from an outbreak of ho-ho-hos and people were shouting things such as "put the Virgin Mary in there." No babies were actually born, but one was reunited with her tearful grandmother who just happened to be a concentration camp survivor. Be it March or December, no one does Christmas — or Hanukkah — quite like the Americans.

CHOICE

Parsons on Class: On Your Uppers

BBC2, 8.00pm

At the start of his exploration of the British class system, the journalist Tony Parsons offers a thesis. As the aristocracy is in decline and the traditional working class no longer exists, the future lies with the middle class. The first part of this proposition is tested with a visit to Muncaster Castle in Cumbria, where the triple-barrelled Gordon-Duff-Penningsons are struggling to hold on to their family seat. They have already been forced to sell their land, some of it to a self-made man who sells tyres. The family silver is up for auction at Sotheby's, a process described by Parsons as "the boot sale of the aristocracy." But the Gordon-Duff-Penningsons still face a £2.5 million repair bill for the castle. Supporting artists may not be a popular cause but Parsons clearly thinks we should feel sorry for them.

Africa Express

Channel 4, 8.00pm

The brief of this series is to counter the negative image of Africa in the former French Congo. This mainly black country is having an invasion of white Afrikaners from South Africa and both sides seem happy. For the South African farmers it is a chance to work on more fertile soil, while the Congolese welcome the promise of economic revival. From South Africa comes a report of another sort of revolution: under apartheid, traditional African healing was a comeback. His relations with Western medicine are generally cordial, though President Mandela's former GP has his doubts. The darker side of Africa emerges in an interview with The Gambia's military dictator, Captain Yahya Jammeh, who ended 30 years of civil war.

Thief Takers

ITV, 9.00pm

Once again in this series the guest characters turn out to be more interesting than the resident cast. Persuasively played by Dany Dyer and Lisa Walker, Alex and Catherine are teenage tearaways who hold up shops, steal cars and commit murder, with the vague idea of acquiring enough money to start a new life in a foreign country. There is a hint of Nicholas Ray's *film noir* classic, *They Live By Night*, though without the poetry. Alex and Catherine are hardly an appealing pair, but they do offer a much-needed human context to the somewhat robotic Flying Squad team which has the job of tracking them down. With audiences of around 12 million, *Thief Takers* has found its niche, but its eponymous cops could still do with more definition.

Missus

BBC1, 10.00pm

Not many programmes can boast contributors that run from Marjorie Proops to Ken Livingstone, Bernard Manning and a former Chief Rabbi. They are talking about adultery and livingstone even admits to it. Although he is not, but he reckons adulterers are hard on men and runs a society for their protection. Men without "errant husbands" or "serial adulterers" tell all, and we hear from the vicar who made page one of *The Sun* over his affair with Susan Elliott. Amid such titillatory material, Denholm's affairs with men and women. If this slickly edited anthology of women's reminiscences is anything to go by, *Missus* reminds you of something. *Missus* comes from the company responsible for *Hollywood Women* and its sequels. As with the *Hollywood* series, the whole is less than the sum of its parts.

Peter Waymark

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (617939)

7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (639)

10.40 Under the Dragon's Wing (732991)

11.10-11.40 3-D (392823)

As HTV West except:

12.55 Emmerdale (7205465)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (46880048)

1.55 Home and Away (46226991)

2.25 Vanessa (30172736)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3797303)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5049755)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (41281)

11.10-11.40 Special Report (392823)

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (7205465)

1.25 Chain Letters (46880048)

1.55 A Country Practice (3797303)

2.25 Vanessa (30172736)

2.55-3.20 High Road (4777281)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5049755)

6.25 Central News and Weather (50755)

10.40 Crime Stalker (401823)

11.40 Max Monroe (40587)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (341663)

1.40 Not Fade Away (210485)

3.30 Customs Classified (9472446)

4.10 Jobfinder (4335021)

5.20 Asian Eye (8361021)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (7205465)

1.25 Home and Away (46880048)

1.55 Shortland Street (5049755)

2.25 Vanessa (30172736)

2.55-3.20 A Tale of Four Market Towns (4777281)

5.10 Home and Away (5049755)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (303)

6.30-7.00 Getaways (755)

10.40 Film: Night of the Hunter (3456848)

12.35am Phoenix (3410392)

5.00 Freezone (66602)

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5129552) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (9330) 8.00 Fifteen to One (23397) 9.30 School of Science (9403262) 9.45 Clutch (5645587) 10.05 Scientific Eye (1943129) 10.25 Geographical Eye (1943129) 10.45 Quest (3738303) 11.00 History in Action (533113) 11.20 The German Programme (4712465) 11.40 House to House (34543) 12.30pm Hullabaloo (31804) 1.00 Slot Machine (48323) 1.30 Film: The Seventh Victim (1929) 1.55 Ricki Lake (513755) 4.00 5 Pump Up 5 (3378) 5.30 Countdown (804) 6.00 Newyddion (182638) 6.15 Heno (5049755) 7.00 Pobel Y Cwm (555754) 7.25 Mela (155549) 8.00 Clec (2262) 8.30 Newyddion (1387) 9.00 I Do (4838) 10.00 Annie's Bar (54002) 10.30 Film: Days of Heaven (2222194) 12.15am Dispatches: The Torture Trail (262205)

11.05 The Sweeney (517529) 12.00am Crime Story (152585) 1.10 Public Eye (262205) 2.05-3.00 Shopping (405232)

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ATHLETICS 39

OLYMPIC TIME-WARP
FRUSTRATES ZODIAC'S
RISING AMBITION

SPORT

THURSDAY MARCH 7 1996

RACING 41

TRAINER IN HUNT
FOR TREASURE
AT CHELTENHAM

Inquiry decides not to punish Leonard



Leonard: cited by SRU

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JASON LEONARD, England's most-capped rugby union prop forward, escaped suspension last night in a decision which will provoke considerable debate among the five nations. A disciplinary hearing ruled that the evidence presented by the Scottish Rugby Union over a punching incident in the Calcutta Cup match last Saturday was inconclusive.

This will leave the England selectors free to choose Leonard for the championship match against Ireland on March 16 when they meet tonight, since the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will not

impose its own ban. The union has been known to do so, notably when it suspended four players in 1987 after the Wales-England game in Cardiff, but disciplinary proceedings are now heard by a neutral arbiter.

The RFU fully accepts the decision of the commissioner appointed on behalf of the five nations committee and considers the matter now closed, a statement read. In fact, the hearing was chaired not by Jacky Laurus, the Frenchman who was the match commissioner at Murrayfield but by Marcel Martin, his countryman and a veteran International Rugby Football Board member.

In this case Martin has taken a charitable view. Leonard was caught by television cameras apparently delivering a punch at a maul which, when it broke up, left Rob Wainwright prone.

Wainwright, the Scotland captain, was clearly stunned and though he did not leave the field, was far less effective against England than in any previous match of the championship. Scotland lost the match 18-9 and with it the grand slam. Wainwright was subsequently found to have been concussed and will not play again for the statutory three weeks.

Scottish officials made a careful study of BBC videotape and their own videos

after the match, and did not invoke the cding procedure until Sunday afternoon, after the English party had returned to London. Having decided to do so they will

Bryan's Eye 42
France ring changes 39

clearly be disappointed that Leonard, 27, has escaped punishment.

"I was always confident that I would not be found guilty of any act of foul play," Leonard, who was winning his 48th cap, said. Indeed Leonard, first capped in 1990, has an outstanding disciplinary record but in the present climate,

which has already seen two players suspended during the championship, a ban was a genuine possibility.

The recommended punishment for punching is a 30-day ban but Leonard's defence, aided by Roger Looker, the chairman of his club, Harlequins, will have made much of another incident late in the game when Scott Hastings flailed at Martin Johnson and was penalised by Derek Bevan, the Welsh official who is the most experienced international referee in the world.

It will have been argued at the disciplinary hearing, held at the Lensbury Club, in London, that if one punch justified only a penalty then another, which went unseen

by the referee and his touch judges, should not constitute a suspension.

"After a detailed review of the video evidence and having heard the player, who pleaded not guilty, the commissioner decided the evidence was not conclusive enough to find Leonard guilty of foul play," a five nations committee statement said. It is believed that Leonard stressed that he went into the maul using the forearm rather than fist to dislodge players surrounding the ball.

He was the first English player to be cited under procedures only recently introduced in the northern hemisphere and not with the wholesale approval of some administrators.

There is an obvious danger that scrutiny of match recordings may become wholesale if one country has sufficient motivation to do so.

Not that the SRU, whose director of coaching, Jim Telfer, attended the hearing yesterday, should be accused of doing so. Telfer is the most realistic of administrators and would only have concurred in the complaint if he genuinely believed it. There may be a feeling throughout the five nations that, once again, England have got away without punishment in a situation where others — such as France, who suspended Richard Dourthe in January after a kicking incident — have suffered more harshly.

Pakistan set up early episode of neighbours

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN LAHORE

PAKISTAN concluded their World Cup preliminaries yesterday with victory here at the Gaddafi Stadium, to where the entire country expects them to return for the final a week on Sunday. To sustain such faith, however, the holders must first overcome emotional and historical barriers by beating India on their own territory.

The quarter-final tie in Bangalore on Saturday was sold out inside three hours simply on the probability that it would pair the discordant neighbours. Since 1999, they have met only on neutral ground and the successful staging of this game, confirmed yesterday once Paki-

stan had beaten New Zealand by 46 runs, is to some degree the *raison d'être* of the competition.

If there is a regret among the millions who anticipate the spectacular settling of some protracted arguments, it is that their dream match cannot now decide the tournament. Only England, however, can prevent the final featuring one of the three host nations, for the Calcutta semi-final, next

QUARTER-FINALS

March 9
India v Pakistan, Bangalore
Sri Lanka v England, Faisalabad
March 11
New Zealand v Australia, Madras
South Africa v West Indies, Karachi

Wednesday, will pit the winners from Bangalore against either England or Sri Lanka, who meet in Faisalabad on Saturday.

The England bowlers could be pardoned serious trepidation about this game. Yesterday, on their own hillside ground in Karachi, the Sri Lankans made a world record one-day total of 398 against Kenya to finish their group games unbeaten. In the other half of the quarter-final draw, scheduled for Monday, South Africa will play West Indies in Karachi and Australia, the favourites, meet New Zealand in Madras.

New Zealand could have avoided this unenviable draw, and dashed the expectations of two nations by playing India instead, had they won yesterday. But it seldom looked likely. In a stadium that has undergone an expensive and decorative facelift, giving it an air of completeness seldom seen in these parts, Pakistan were always dictating, despite the worrying loss of their captain, Wasim Akram.

Wasim pulled a muscle in his side while batting and did not take the field for the New Zealand innings. It left Pakistan to muddle through with only three specialist bowlers but it was a precaution Wasim believed worth taking. "Our physio has begun work on the muscle already and he tells me I will be all right for the quarter-final," he said later.

His was not the only injury of the day. New Zealand, already missing Gavin



Germon, the New Zealand wicketkeeper, takes evasive action as Salim adds to his score in Lahore yesterday

Larsen, lost Danny Morrison with a recurrent groin strain after two expensive overs. Their bowling was exposed without his experience as Pakistan, launched by Aamir Sohail, who is batting as if he cannot contemplate getting out, scored freely on a bland pitch and a rapid outfield.

If Pakistan faltered in the middle overs, it was more because of their own suspect running than the opposition attack. Three men were run out, including Inzamam, not the nimblest when sent back,

and Javed Miandad, a victim of agile fielding by Chris Harris, the substitute, after being promoted once more in search of form.

Whether Pakistan can continue to accommodate an out-of-touch Javed in their top five is debatable. Salim Malik played quite beautifully to make 55 from 47 balls, sharing an unbroken sixth-wicket with Wasim, and he is clearly too low at No 6. Javed's ego, and his demanding following, may now have to take second place

to the needs of the team. Aamir was nominally in charge when Pakistan bowled although, inevitably, it often looked as if there were at least three captains vying for supremacy. Waqar Younis, bearing a heavier burden without his new-ball partner, bowled with great speed and control, and the subtlety of Mushtaq Ahmed stifled the middle of the innings.

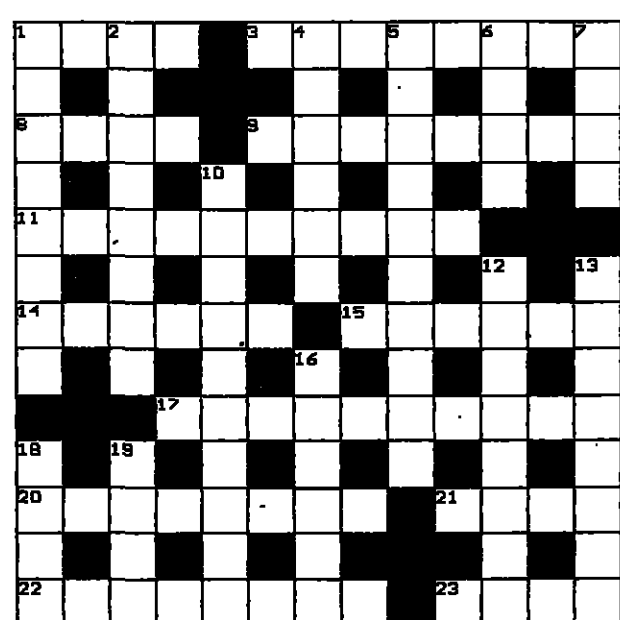
Four of the New Zealanders passed 30 but none reached 50 and it is a sobering thought that they have suffered two

emphatic defeats since an encouraging opening win. Their opponents then, of course, were England.

Lara speaks out, page 42
Scoreboards, page 42

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 723 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Take into mouth (eg by straw) (4)
- 3 Agra mausoleum (3,5)
- 8 Elderly (4)
- 9 Peaceful (8)
- 11 Sneak thief, eg Fagin (10)
- 14 Learner (6)
- 15 Two Gentlemen city (Shak.) (6)
- 17 Medieval plague (5,5)
- 20 (Office) without privacy (4)
- 21 Liquid measure; fish organ (4)
- 22 Cautious, timid (8)
- 23 Catcall (4)

DOWN

- 1 Scene of serious action; bow (for lubbers) (5,3)
- 2 Using compulsion (8)
- 4 Second-largest continent (6)
- 5 Claudio —, early opera composer (10)
- 6 Time of day; period (4)
- 7 Temporary quiet (4)
- 10 (Book of) Revelation (10)
- 12 Sincere (4,4)
- 13 Unmarried man (8)
- 16 Illegible hand (6)
- 18 Hong Kong — (4)
- 19 A forest; James —, US film actor (4)

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Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 722

ACROSS: 4 Rub 8 Heave to 9 Loose 10 Adams 11 Nervous
12 Travesty 14 Hilt 15 Vote 16 Reprisal 20 Vitriol 21 Visit
23 Cedar 24 Cavernam 25 Yak
DOWN: 1 Thwart 2 Dada 3 Lessee 4 Round the clock 5 Blurt
6 Polonius 7 Jet set 13 Aptitude 15 Vivace 17 Revive
18 Latent 19 Fiery 22 Sunno

Charles appears set fair to claim final Olympic berth

Old rivals battle at

Bacardi Cup for right to represent Britain.

Edward Gorman says

EIGHT years after first attempting to make the Olympic team, Glyn Charles is finally on the verge of doing it. Between him and a chance to compete in Savannah, in July, however, stands Lawrie Smith, his old rival, who will be doing all he can in Miami today and tomorrow to stop him.

The two will be battling it out at the Bacardi Cup on Biscayne Bay to clinch the tenth and last place in the team to represent Britain in the Star class at the Games. The qualifying series started at the Olympic Classes Regatta, also in Miami in January, from which Smith and his crew, Chris Mason, emerged with a 16-point lead.

Charles, showing good speed in strong winds, has made a confident start this week, though, and beaten Smith in both the opening races to establish his own 13-point lead. He now needs to hang on for the last four races to keep out the notoriously consistent Smith.

If Charles and George Skouodas, his crew, manage to pull it off, it will be a remarkable achievement and much against the odds. Whereas Smith has his own boat, a sail development programme and plenty of resources behind him, as befits a full-time professional, Charles is competing on a modest budget. He does not

even have a Star of his own and has had to charter one from an American to take part in the trials. If he fails to make the team, Charles, a former top Laser sailor and Admiral's Cup skipper, will almost certainly be looking for a job.

After losing to Smith in Soling qualifying in both 1988 and 1992, Charles was understandably reluctant yesterday to predict a successful outcome this time. However, it is

hard to ignore his consistency, having beaten Smith in six of the eight races they have sailed in the series so far. "It's going pretty well," he said as he prepared for racing at the Coral Reef Yacht Club. "We're not really streaking ahead — it could just as quickly turn around the other way."

Given his relative inexperience in a notoriously difficult boat, his fifth place overall in a typically distinguished Bacardi fleet looked impressive. "What we generally need is just more time in the boat," he said. "At the moment we are still almost piecing together our rig settings because we haven't ever sailed in all the conditions yet in one of these."

The outcome is hard to predict, nonetheless, especially with the local forecast suggesting wind speeds may drop over the last two days' racing, which could work to Smith's advantage. The big danger for both men lies in the size of the Bacardi fleet with 83 boats. A couple of really bad results could wreck an apparently strong position.



Charles: in pursuit of goal set eight years ago

IOC to use new test in Atlanta

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN LAUSANNE

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board yesterday decided to adopt a revolutionary new testing procedure for testosterone, the banned drug, for the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer. So effective is the system, there may be more than 100 positive tests.

The decision is causing widespread anxiety. While the executive board decided in favour of the procedure without taking a vote, there are many problems, not least the cost. Any national Olympic committee wishing to pre-test its team before departure, to avoid the indignity of sending competitors home from the Games, will be faced with a bill of £500 per competitor. The organisers must also fear the prospect of the Games being marred by controversy.

The new testing, using a procedure called spectrometry, has been proved effective. Using old and new systems at the world junior weightlifting championships in China last year, the old system produced a dozen positive tests, the new nearly 60.

Anita DeFrance, the former Olympic oarswoman and executive board member, said: "It is what's needed. If any competitor is worried about what tests might reveal, then they should stay away."

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Vichy official talks of 'Jewish plot' in Auschwitz case

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A COURT in Bordeaux yesterday began a three-day hearing to decide whether Maurice Papon, the last surviving senior official of the collaborationist Vichy regime, should stand trial for allegedly sending hundreds of French Jews to their deaths at the Auschwitz death camp.

M. Papon, now 85, denies committing crimes against humanity by collaborating with the Nazis, and in an interview published in *Liberation* newspaper yesterday he claimed that the charges against him were part of an international Jewish-American plot, backed by US money. "I know I have done nothing wrong," he insisted.

M. Papon, who was secretary-general of the Bordeaux administration during the Nazi occupation and went on to enjoy a dazzling postwar political career, is not attending this week's court hearing "because he does not want to be insulted by the plaintiffs," his lawyer said. But the appeal judges have agreed to hear testimony behind closed doors from 35 relatives of Bordeaux Jews allegedly rounded up and deported on M. Papon's orders.

The charges against M. Papon first surfaced in 1981, when he was Budget Minister, but it was not until late last year, after 14 years of delays and official obstruction, that

the Bordeaux public prosecutor formally accused the former Vichy official of ordering the deportation of 1,690 Jews between 1942 and 1944, including 223 children. Only a handful of the deportees survived.

At this week's hearing M. Papon's lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, will argue that the case should be dropped. M. Varaut claims his client was a civil servant merely obeying orders from above who did his best to improve the plight of the deportees, saved the lives of several Jews and was active in the Resistance.

The Bordeaux appeals court is expected to make a decision within the next two months on whether the former Cabinet

minister should stand trial, but M. Papon is expected to appeal to the Supreme Court if the verdict goes against him.

Many French historians welcome the prospect of a trial, arguing that this may be the last chance to assess the dubious role of the Vichy regime in the Nazis' "Final Solution". But others, including many within the political establishment, believe it will merely reopen old wounds.

"We will be asking the third generation after the war to understand the constraints of the Occupation," M. Varaut said.

The late François Mitterrand, himself a former Vichy official, acknowledged in 1994 that as President he had intervened to delay the trial of ageing Vichy bureaucrats in the interests of preserving "civil peace".

Arno Klarsfeld, the French Nazi-hunter and lawyer who is representing ten of the plaintiffs in the Papon case, claims that the accused was fully aware of the eventual fate of the Bordeaux Jews.

"No jury in the world could acquit him. He was a symbol of Vichy... There was no hatred. It was cold, calculated behaviour to further his career," M. Klarsfeld said.

About 76,000 Jews were arrested in France and sent to Nazi death camps between 1941 and 1944.



Papon: claims he was in the Resistance



Salman Raduyev, who led the Chechen hostage-takers in Dagestan in January, is reported to have been killed

Chechens launch dawn raid on Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebel forces launched a surprise attack against Russian troops in Grozny, the Chechen capital, yesterday, seizing several areas of the shattered city after day-long street battles.

In what local people described as the worst fighting in Grozny since it was captured by Russian forces just over a year ago, dozens of separatists attacked the city from the south and west in a dawn raid. "The situation is

very serious," said Yunadi Usanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Moscow-backed Chechen Government.

Witnesses said that three armoured personnel carriers were destroyed by rebel fire and that at least 16 soldiers were killed in one area alone. Several government officials were seized and the rebels overran two police stations and set up a checkpoint less than a mile from Russian military headquarters.

The Russians, pinned down by intense sniper fire, called in artillery support and used helicopter gunships as they tried to regain control of four districts - Zavodskoy, Oktyabrskiy, Minutka and Trampark. One of the fiercest street battles erupted in the Minutka district, scene of some of the bloodiest exchanges during the two-month siege of the Chechen capital last year.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen secessionist leader, broke into the Russian state television transmissions to claim responsibility for the attack.

The death was reported yesterday of Salman Raduyev, 28, the bearded Chechen guerrilla commander who led the bloody hostage operation into Dagestan in January. According to Interfax, he died of head wounds at a hospital in the rebel stronghold of Urus Martan.

Starving Koreans 'ate flesh'

Washington: Food shortages in North Korea may have led to at least one case of cannibalism in the Communist state and a spate of rumours that several others may have taken place (Tom Rhodes writes).

American intelligence claims the incidents occurred in a northeastern region. The *Washington Times* said that when he heard the cannibalism claims Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, demanded an inquiry. The UN estimates that millions of North Koreans are facing starvation after floods last year destroyed the rice crop.

Papers name spy suspects

Washington: Documents released by the National Security Agency name scores of Americans who helped to betray US secrets to Moscow, including data on the atomic bomb. Decoded Soviet messages named, among others, "Ales" who the NSA said was "probably Alger Hiss", the former State Department official accused by Richard Nixon, then a congressman, of being a spy. (Reuters)

Singapore row over Internet

Singapore: The opposition Singapore Democratic Party questioned moves to regulate political debate on the Internet after it emerged that web pages owned by political parties would have to register with the broadcasting authority. The Government says it would curb access to pornography and check abuses that could harm stability. (AFP)

Klan is caught in cross-fire

Bill Albers, imperial wizard of the California Ku-Klux-Klan, is to be sued by air quality officials after celebrating his birthday by burning a petrol-soaked cross three storeys high (Nigel Hawkes writes). One official said: "If everybody burnt crosses, the results would be disastrous."

Germany hit by recession as jobless total tops 4.3m

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

THE number of unemployed in Germany has reached a postwar high of 4.3 million as an increasing number of indicators suggest that Europe's most powerful economy has slipped into a recession.

Dragging Germany down is the miserable state of the building industry, which accounts for 10 per cent of the economy and which is supposed to be its driving force.

At the labour exchange in the Mitte district of Berlin, Reinhold Moritz, a welder, did not show any enthusiasm yesterday for the debate about whether Germany was suffering from a recession or, as the Government claims, "a growth pause". He is a 27-year-old Saxon who moved to Berlin after unification, attracted by the building sites

scattered around the capital. Those were boom times. "Now we are in for a really hard time - I've got to decide whether to retrain as a municipal gardener." Gardening, however, pays a fraction of building work and is not much more secure.

Bernhard Jagoda, the chairman of Germany's federal employment agency, said it was still unclear whether the cold weather had caused the collapse in the construction sector or whether it was part of a structural crisis. The signs are, however, that this is not a seasonal hiccup.

The Association of German Construction Companies estimates that 20,000 firms will go bankrupt in the next three years. There are almost 1.3 million people employed by

building firms; about 200,000 lost their jobs last year and 100,000 have been dismissed this year.

The trend will continue: local authorities, under pressure to prune debts before the 1997 monetary union entrance examination, are putting all but the most urgent building projects on ice.

The trend masks some political dangers. Herr Moritz blames "the damned foreigners" for stealing his job: illegal workers from Russia, Ukraine and Central Asian republics who work for a pittance. Or European Union workers like the British, Irish and Portuguese who undercut the Germans because of lower social welfare costs. "We have got to get these people out of Germany," he says.



De Silguy: struck an optimistic note for 1997

Brussels admits worries on EMU

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Brussels Commission issued its first acknowledgment yesterday that the economic slowdown in Europe was casting doubt on the prospects for launching monetary union on time in 1999.

Issuing a downbeat review of performance of the 15 member states, the Commission confirmed that the unexpected dip in Europe's big economies in the last quarter of last year had forced it to cut its forecast of EU growth this year to less than 2 per cent, compared with its prediction last November of 2.6 per cent. Thanks mainly to a crisis of confidence, the European economy may have stagnated in the last quarter, it said.

Although steady growth was expected to resume this year, there was a danger "that a self-reinforcing downward spiral in confidence" could intensify, it said. The Commission added that it was worried that social unrest may force governments to ease their effort to cut deficits. Under the Maastricht treaty rules such cuts will be needed for monetary union.

Public discussion of doubts about the monetary project has been taboo as Jacques Santer and his Commissioners have campaigned to maintain confidence in the EMU timetable. However, the economic slide, defined by the Commission as a "temporary pause", has made clear to everyone that France and Germany, which are fundamental to a single currency, will be hard-pressed to pass the Maastricht test, which is to be applied to next year's economic performance.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Monetary Commissioner, struck an optimistic note yesterday, saying he was convinced that "a significant number" of countries would qualify next year. "The report shows a growth pause, not a recession," he said. All the signs pointed to a sharp pick-up by the end of this year, although he noted that in this regard Germany was an exception.

Saudi group sacks dissident

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A DAY after winning a judicial recommendation that the Home Office reconsider its plans to deport him to Dominica, Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident, has been dismissed by the Islamic movement that he founded.

A spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in London said that Dr Masari no longer represented the committee, which has campaigned against the Saudi Royal Fam-

ily and has set up an organisation in London to co-ordinate political agitation against the Saudi Government. The spokesman said he could not elaborate on the split as there were now mediation attempts going on between Dr Masari and the group.

The dissident physicist, who has infuriated the British Government, is seeking a judicial review of the decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to refuse him asylum in Britain without consideration of the substance of his application. Dr Masari, 49, a

German-educated professor, founded the committee with five other scholars in 1993, but it quickly fell foul of the Riyadh Government.

The members left Saudi Arabia and set up base in Britain in 1994. Dr Masari was arrested and imprisoned but escaped to Yemen from whence he made his way to Britain. The split in the movement may be linked to the dispute caused by the Government's attempt to deport him or Dr Masari's philosophy, which is more in tune with Western ideas of democracy.

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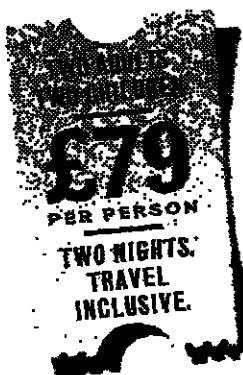
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Dole's key rivals refuse to give up nomination fight

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

STEVE FORBES and Pat Buchanan vowed to fight on yesterday, despite the apparent lock Robert Dole now has on the Republican presidential nomination after his resounding victories in Tuesday's eight primaries.

Mr Forbes, the publishing tycoon, triggered intense speculation that he was withdrawing by calling a noon press conference in New York. Instead he announced his surprise endorsement by Jack Kemp, a leading Republican who passionately supports his "flat tax" policy.

Mr Buchanan, the conservative commentator who ended Tuesday with six second places, acknowledged that Mr Dole's nomination seemed "inevitable", but he pledged to continue his populist insurgency until the Republican convention in August.

Mr Buchanan refused to promise to endorse Mr Dole eventually or to rule out

REPUBLICAN DELEGATES ELECTED SO FAR	
Dole	276
Forbes	69
Buchanan	51
Alexander	10
Stromm	7
Keyes	1
Delegates needed for nomination	599

There are 1,990 delegates to the August 12-15 convention in San Diego, California

running as an independent candidate this autumn. He called the 72-year-old Senate leader's campaign an "empty vessel... bereft of ideas". He issued a warning that his supporters would find it hard to back Mr Dole "given the character of the campaign he has conducted with the attack ads and the extremist nonsense and all the rest of it".

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, and

Richard Lugar, the Indiana senator, both announced they were leaving the race after dismal performances on Tuesday. Mr Alexander spent roughly \$15 million (£9.8 million) and more than two years on his campaign, but he finished higher than third place in only one primary.

The continuing campaigns of Mr Forbes and Mr Buchanan are certainly a nuisance for Mr Dole, who is dangerously close to his spending limit and badly needs to end an extraordinarily bitter, primary season. Mr Forbes is particularly irksome, although he too performed poorly on Tuesday. He has spent about \$30 million but seems willing to lavish further huge sums from his personal fortune on giant states such as New York, whose primary is today, and California on March 26.

Almost no one in Washington believes, however, that Mr Dole will be denied the nomi-



Robert Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, attending a rally in Washington after he seized a convincing lead in the race for the Republican Party nomination

nation. "It's over. I think he's the nominee," said Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Mr Dole himself pointedly retrained his guns on President Clinton.

His aides suggested that the Second World War hero would seek to make "character" a major general election issue — a thinly-veiled reference to Mr Clinton's Vietnam draft evasion. Whitewater

problems and alleged sexual escapades.

Tuesday's clean sweep was an extraordinarily sweet moment for Mr Dole, who has three times sought his party's nomination. He nearly retired in 1990 when prostate cancer and George Bush's election appeared to dash his hopes of ever achieving America's top office. Only days ago he suffered humiliating defeats

in New Hampshire and Arizona, but his victory in last Saturday's crucial South Carolina primary turned the tide.

The closest of Tuesday's primaries was in Georgia, where Mr Dole beat Mr Buchanan by 11 points. In Colorado, Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine he won by more than 20 points. In Maryland and Connecticut by more than 30 and in Rhode

Island by 47. He has more than a quarter of the 996 delegates he needs to win.

The size of Mr Dole's victories disguised the underlying weakness of his candidacy, however, and many Republicans fear he will be no match for Mr Clinton. He is a poor campaigner who lacks a compelling vision or capacity to inspire. Republican rivals managed to catch or overtake

him in almost every primary or caucus where they had time to make their cases, but when it came to fighting eight contests simultaneously their resources proved no match for a man who had virtually the entire Republican establishment working for him.

Mr Dole now has the uphill task of reuniting a bitterly divided party in time for the November election.

Capitol Hill barons pay homage to victorious leader

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Republican establishment had finally crushed Pat Buchanan's "peasants' revolt" and on Tuesday night it let rip.

Senators, congressmen and countless party functionaries — the very "knights and barons" of Washington that Mr Buchanan once mocked — swarmed down from Capitol Hill for Robert Dole's victory party in a neighbouring Holiday Inn.

They came in their hundreds, packing into a low-ceilinged basement ballroom and sweltering beneath banks of television arc-lights as they waited two hours for their party's elder statesman to arrive.

They argued about likely running mates. They waved their flags and banners. They chanted "Dole 96" and "President Dole, President Dole". They then erupted in a mighty roar as the "next President of the United States" was finally announced and an elated Mr Dole strode on to the stage, punching the air, flashing thumbs-up signs and jiggling to the rhythm of James

Brown's *Soul Man*. "I know they call this 'Junior Tuesday', but it seems pretty super to us," Mr Dole declared as his wife, Elizabeth, stood beaming at his side.

"Tonight we've proven the pundits wrong. Tonight we've proved the Republican Party is not spinning apart but coming together. We've found a leader to bring the Republican Party together," President Clinton had vetoed one Republican reform after another, but "in November 1996 we're going to veto Bill Clinton", he proclaimed to cheers.

To those reporters who had spent the past few weeks trailing this lacklustre candidate around the country, the evening was a revelation. It was practically the first time Mr Dole had managed to get a hall to overflowing. It was the first time he had generated any "real excitement" in an audience.

Whether its man is capable of sparking a similar excitement across America is a question the party establishment must now live with.

Fizz goes flat in cola campaign

BY DES HOUGHTON

TO PEPSI COLA it sounded like a great idea at the time: put lucky numbers inside bottle caps, offer generous cash prizes then sit back and watch sales soar. But it all went horribly wrong.

The competition has resulted in riots in the Philippines, millions in compensation payments and a costly four-year legal battle in which Pepsi executives faced jail.

The case, which was delayed by the Supreme Court yesterday, arose from a Pepsi promotional campaign in the Philippines in May 1992 in which the soft drinks giant promised to give up to one million pesos (£25,000) to holders of bottle caps imprinted with a three-digit number.

Due to a computer error, however, at least 600,000 caps were printed with the winning number — 349. Thousands of winners mobbed Pepsi warehouses to collect payment. When Pepsi refused to pay, irate winners rioted.

As a "goodwill gesture," Pepsi agreed to pay 500 pesos to each 349 cap holder — about half a million people — spending about £6.5 million.

The winners filed criminal fraud and swindling charges against Pepsi. Yesterday the Philippine Supreme Court stopped a lower court from ordering the arrest of ten former and present executives of Pepsi's distribution firm.



Pakistan prepares bomb test

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN intelligence satellites have picked up evidence that Pakistan plans to conduct its first underground nuclear explosion in a mountainous region near the border with Afghanistan.

Photographs from southwestern Baluchistan show Pakistani engineers close to completing the excavation of a mountain where American officials believe such a blast could be possible. But few in Washington see any experiment taking place unless India decides to move forward its own test plans. Pakistan's preparations were viewed yesterday as a strong signal to Delhi that the Government in Islamabad stands ready to match any threat.

Last year it was reported that India was excavating a shaft at its nuclear site in the Rajasthan desert, raising the prospect of the country's first nuclear test since 1974.

The Clinton Administration has warned both countries that any nuclear explosions would force America to block economic and military aid, vote against international bank loans and reject key export licences.

The photographs are likely to increase concern over tensions between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir, which could bring South Asia to the brink of nuclear conflict.

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'From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of Central and Eastern Europe'

Fulton to welcome another Cold Warrior

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN FULTON, MISSOURI

ANGLOPHILIA has returned, big time, to the small Midwestern town where Sir Winston Churchill declared the start of the Cold War. The 10,000 residents of Fulton, Missouri, are preparing for a visit on Saturday from Baroness Thatcher who will mark the 50th anniversary of Churchill's growing, lyrical pronouncement.

Lady Thatcher's oration — she promises a steamer — will top a week of Brit-boosting under the vast, storm-swept skies of this central swath of the American continent. There have been train rides, symposiums, dinners, motorcades and shop window-dressing contests. Along Fulton's Court Street, with its Carson City architecture and gas guzzler-size parking slots, the haberdashers and the drug store are vying for first prize. The usual displays of parlour essentials and analgesic ointments have been replaced by Churchill Toby mugs, Union Jacks and "Welcome Margaret Thatcher" pennants. "Wonderful woman," folk say in the street. "Wonderful country."

She may no longer be Prime Minister, but neither was Churchill when on March 5, 1946, he chose Fulton as the vantage point for his observation that "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended". In a region deemed isolationist, he clinched Anglo-American resolve, and initial complaints that he was warring on ceded to the real-



Thatcher speaking in Provo, Utah, on Tuesday

isation of his foresight. The Fulton speech was arguably the moment when Britain passed the baton of Western leadership to the United States, the moment that forged the relationship which, for 47 of those 50 years at least, we were able to call special.

Fulton is an unusual place, as you can tell from the approach road off Interstate 70. The "skylines" of Midwest towns usually feature a large, painted water tower. Fulton has one, too, but to its right stands the outline of something less routine — a Wren church made of Portland limestone.

It is St Mary's, Aldermanbury, destroyed by Nazi bombers during the Blitz and

transported to Missouri in the 1960s to be rebuilt, brick by smoke-blackened brick.

Can Lady Thatcher do the same repair job for Anglo-American political ties, the alliance urged so powerfully by Churchill? The feeling down at Mom's Restaurant on Fifth Street, Fulton, was positive. Every day at 10am a dozen or so of Fulton's opinion formers gather at Mom's for a coffee and a talk. Tuesday morning found the old-timers calling one another "Junior" and staring through the two corner windows at the rain or the occasional pair of female heels. As the men sipped hot, home-ground coffee they brewed over the imminent descent of another British leader on their small community. "God bless her, she's a Tory!" said Stewart Keckley, 85, a Republican-voting former accountant who takes a ribbing from his mostly Democratic bunch of friends.

Walter Oestreich, manager of an electrical co-operative, announced happily that he had a ticket for Saturday's philippic and that as an admirer of the baroness he was confident of a great day.

Warren Hollrah, a staff member at Fulton's extensive Churchill Museum, offered the opinion that "there is a real feeling in this part of the world of an Anglo-American relationship, of common ties and political bonds". Lady Thatcher is strongly pro-American and might seek to strengthen those bonds with an elaborate compliment. Compliments are cheap, and from such a source would be appreciated, but the specu-

tion in Fulton was that she could better assist London-Washington ties by following Churchill's example and describing the threats we face after the Iron Curtain.

Advanced details of her speech have not been disclosed, but speculation is that she will talk about the Russian election, about the Balkans, or possibly about the lurking, seldom mentioned threat of Communist China.

Whatever modern dangers Lady Thatcher describes on Saturday — or "gaunt marauders" as Churchill put it in 1946 — this week in Fulton has been a time for memories. Nancy Lou West's gift shop window has a photograph of a five-year-old Nancy at the Churchill parade. She will be there again on Saturday, this time with one of her grandchildren.

At Westminster College, a Presbyterian foundation, they pay attention to history, so the convivial Sir Denis Thatcher should have nothing to dread when he arrives with his wife. In 1946, shortly before Churchill arrived, the abstemious university elders realised that the old boy would doubtless want a drink. One of their number was sent to the liquor store to buy a bottle of whisky.

After a depressingly dry lunch, Churchill retired to a bedroom to rest before his speech. The college elders chose this time to send a maid upstairs with the whisky. Her knock at the door was reputedly met with a lightning-quick grasp for the tray and the grunted words: "Thank goodness, I was beginning to fear I was in the Sahara."

FULTON DAILY SUN-GAZETTE CHURCHILL WARNS OF RED BID FOR POWER



A statue of Churchill holds a place of honour before St Mary's church in Fulton

Wailing as New York buries shot deli king

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WAILING mourners and a flag-covered coffin gave an Old World flavour to a funeral held in central New York after the killing of one of the city's best-known Jewish deli owners. Amid the high passions, the rabbi conducting the funeral collapsed with a heart attack.

The murdered delicatessen proprietor, Abe Lebewohl, ran the Second Avenue Deli, a clattering, chattering establishment whose boiled beef flanken, strudel and "kugel" noodle pudding secured it a place on many gastronomic itineraries.

It attracted an ecumenical array of star customers, from Muhammad Ali to Bob Hope, Joan Rivers to Ed Koch, the former Mayor, and baseball's Joe DiMaggio. Tourist guides listed it as the place for the classic New York kosher bite.

On Monday Mr Lebewohl, a 64-year-old survivor of Nazi concentration camps, was shot dead by a robber as he was trying to bank the weekend's takings. The thief's haul was no more than \$10,000 (£6,500). Mr Lebewohl's death ripped the soul out of New York's large and powerful Jewish community, and the outpouring of emotion was extraordinary. People grieved for the demise of Yiddish Broadway and Knish Alley, as the quarter near the deli used to be known. The New York Times devoted more than a page to the death of this purveyor of pastrami sandwiches and chopped liver.

William Bratton, the police commissioner, and several of his best men attended the funeral and traffic stopped as the casket was borne to the synagogue. Sixth Street was clogged by a long line of black hats and anguished faces who jostled and shuffled behind the coffin swathed in the Star of David.

The Second Avenue Deli, which Mr Lebewohl transformed from a ten-seater diner into a 250-seater success story, faces an uncertain future. One of New York's leading lawyers, Raoul Felder, and the Jewish comedian Jackie Mason have offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Mr Lebewohl's killer.

Lawyer faces jail over drug case

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

F. LEE BAILEY, the doyen of American criminal defence lawyers, was locked in a war of nerves yesterday with a federal judge determined to jail him for contempt of court.

Mr Bailey had until 5pm yesterday to surrender to authorities in Florida and begin a six-month term for failing to

hand over \$28 million (£18.4 million) in cash and shares entrusted to him by a client convicted of drug trafficking.

Mr Bailey was ordered by Judge Maurice Perl to make a down-payment of \$2.3 million. He has already paid more than \$700,000 and has pledged the rest of his \$4.5 million in personal assets to the US Government.

For all his eagerness to co-

operate, however, Mr Bailey is fighting to keep control of a huge investment in a Canadian firm, Biochem Pharma, transferred to him by the client, Claude Duboc.

Mr Bailey claims the shares, worth \$25 million, along with \$3 million in cash in a Swiss bank account, were his fee. The Government regards it as drug money and is seeking to confiscate them.

US struck cartel deal to convict Noriega

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

LAWYERS for General Manuel Noriega, the jailed former Panamanian dictator, have disclosed new evidence that the US Justice Department did a secret deal with Colombia's Cali drugs cartel to obtain key evidence that helped to convict the general on drug trafficking charges in 1992.

Hoping for a new trial, Noriega's

lawyers say the witness, Ricardo Bilonick, a self-confessed Panamanian drug trafficker and former diplomat, was paid \$1.25 million (£820,000) by the cartel. Embarrassed prosecutors admit there was a deal, but insist that the United States approved no payments to him.

Although it is unlikely that Judge William Hoewer, who sentenced Noriega to 40 years in jail, will overturn the conviction, a hearing in Miami this week has cast doubt on the fairness of

Noriega's trial. On Monday, two former senior members of the Cali cartel described how the cartel offered to provide a "dynamite witness" — Señor Bilonick — in the Noriega case. In return, the Government agreed to get a reduction in the sentence of a relative of a cartel boss jailed in Miami.

□ Bogotá: José Santacruz Londoño, 53, a leading member of the Cali cartel, was shot dead in Medellín on Tuesday, two months after he escaped from jail. (AP)

THE SUNDAY TIMES

FAMILY LIFE IN THE FARCE LANE

'My father's extremely selfish, but also genuinely caring and concerned'

— Jamie Rix on Brian Rix, the former farceur and now chairman of Mencap

'Jamie had the grace to arrive on a Sunday, my day off'

— Lord Rix and his son compare notes in Relative Values, in the Magazine on Sunday

MIMI'S GREEK TRAGEDY

How a blonde air hostess nearly conquered Greece — Russell Miller, in the Magazine, on the rise and fall of Mimi Papandreou

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How to cure bedwetting, a cause of bullying

Playground pariahs

RECENT PRESS reports have shown that it is impossible to understate either the extent or the misery caused by school bullying, and, as recent cases have shown, parents can remain unaware of it. Children need their parents to think well of them and being bullied by contemporaries, however unjustified, is not the badge of social success a child wants to display at home. Parents are invariably hurt by this lack of confidence, whereas it only shows the child cares for his or her parents' regard.

Although the reason for the bullying is often obscure, some children are obvious candidates. One of the worst cases I have seen recently was that of a sensitive, intellectual, middle-class English boy who was sent to school in a working-class area of Scotland. This clash of cultures left the schoolboy as happy as a mouse sharing a kennel with a pack of terriers.

One cause of bullying is bedwetting, or enuresis. Bedwetters, even if they are dry by day, always carry the whiff of urine which makes them obvious playground victims.

Dr Jonathan Evans, a consultant paediatric nephrologist at Nottingham General Hospital, recently reviewed the treatment of enuresis in *General Practitioner*. Enuresis affects 500,000 children in Britain of school age, and in the days of National Service affected those even aged 18, being the most frequent cause for rejection from military service on medical grounds.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Bedwetting is costly to the family both in terms of cash, which is estimated to add £9 to £14 to the weekly budget, and in terms of the relationship between parents and child.

When doctors first see a bedwetter they will make certain that there is no physical cause for poor bladder control, or any emotional worry.

It is often found that a bedwetter's mother or father was also enuretic when young. But this doesn't necessarily make parents more sympathetic. Nobody wants to see their less socially acceptable habits reproduced, and enuresis is a common reason for violence in the home.

About 75 per cent of children are dry at night by the age of three, and by five 80 to 90 per cent have bladder control. The mainstay of treatment is a combination of a dry-bed training regime coupled with an enuretic alarm. However, alarms only become effective when the child is mature enough to understand their rationale — usually about seven. Prescribing an alarm at the right time is effective in 70 per cent of cases.

Drug therapy can be recommended for holidays, or used for a short time in conjunction with the alarm. Although drugs nearly always give relief, patients usually relapse after they are stopped. Desmopressin or Desmopressin, the trade names for the drug of first choice, rather than imipramine, which is a tricyclic antidepressant.

Outsize ears and longevity



IF YOU are blessed with big ears, will you live longer? Abnormalities of the external ears are associated with a wide variety of congenital syndromes, and your ears may even have been surreptitiously inspected by your doctor as part of the assessment of your heart. For some reason patients who develop a diagonal crease across the earlobe as they grow older are more likely to suffer from coronary heart disease.

A suggestion in the *British Medical Journal* last December that large ears were more common in very old people raised the question of whether those with big ears live longer, or whether ears grew in the very elderly.

There seems no doubt that there is some association between old age and large ears. The statistics carefully recorded by Chinese and Japanese doctors stand up to scrutiny, but the essential question of which factor is cause and which effect is unanswered.

The Chinese believe that people with large ears live longer, and those with thick earlobes accumulate wealth. The Prince of Wales may reign over us for many years.

Can food trigger tension headaches?



ONE OF THE maxims known to migraine sufferers is that almost anything which induces a headache in an unaffected person can bring about migraine in a patient. Is the converse true: can foods which trigger migraine or cluster headaches cause a tension headache, or make it worse?

To test this possibility, Dr R.C. Peartfield, a neurologist, questioned 577 consecutive patients at a migraine clinic about their diet. His findings were recently published in the magazine *Headache*. Among the patients, 429 had migraine, 29 had cluster headaches, 40 had tension headaches and 46 suffered from symptoms suggestive of both tension headaches and migraine.

The migraine patients were often sensitive to alcohol — 40 per cent were affected by beer and red wine, 18 per cent couldn't tolerate any at all — and 16 per cent were sensitive to cheese and chocolate. Nearly half the patients with cluster headaches had them induced by alcohol. The good news is that, except in one case, neither alcohol, cheese nor chocolate had a negative influence on patients with tension headaches.



Jodie Hanan: "It's not so much the affair but all the lies he told, and the kind of person he's become. He refuses to accept responsibility for it"

Adulterer's daughter

Jodie Hanan thought her parents' 23-year marriage was unshakable, but on a dull afternoon 18 months ago, her father told her he had been having an affair for two years with a family friend. Five weeks later, her mother Gabrielle asked him to leave and Jodie, a 22-year-old student, has not seen him since.

She now lives with Gabrielle and brothers, Daniel, 19, and Christopher, 15, at the family home in Edinburgh, and has changed her surname to her mother's maiden name. Here she describes her feelings of betrayal, hurt and anger at her father's infidelity.

"My father told my mother that he was having an affair in August 1994, but she decided not to say anything to us all. I remember the atmosphere in the house was really strange — I could tell something was

wrong. I thought that one of them might have cancer and that they couldn't bring themselves to tell us. They kept having whispered conversations and going out for walks — they never used to do that. Looking back, they were obviously trying to talk things through.

"I found out two months later. I had been staying with my boyfriend but when I walked back into the house I knew immediately that something was wrong. The whole family was in the kitchen — they were usually out and about on a Sunday. I thought one of our cats had died. Then Daniel said: 'It's okay, it's not the cats, but Dad's got something to tell you.'

"He told me he had been having an affair with a woman who was a friend of the family, known to us all. Mum didn't actually like her that much but she used to come round for tea and she lived locally.

"It was awful. I remember I was carrying a newspaper and I started hitting him over the head with it, screaming. It was a nightmare. My younger brother locked himself in the bathroom and wouldn't come out. My boyfriend phoned to see if I had got home safely. I remember gasping to him: 'My dad's having an affair. I'll talk to you later' and slam-

ming the phone down. Mum said later she had been going through all the same horrific reactions as the first time she was told.

"It was all thrown at us in the next couple of hours. Dad talking and trying to explain and us asking why, why. His reasons were the old clichés — he said he had felt over the past couple of years that Mum hadn't given him enough time.

She'd started a college course, and her mother had died. She had grieved very heavily. Dad said he felt that he couldn't get through to her, and what with bringing up three children, his work as a teacher and her course, he felt he wasn't getting any attention. These were his reasons, but I

call them pathetic excuses. "It was definitely worse than his mistress was known to us all. For both of them to pretend to be our friends was a real betrayal. She was married too, and on a couple of occasions they all went out together. I felt Mum had been humiliated.

'It's one of the most selfish things you could ever do'

Milking herbal power

IF YOU were out on the town last night and feel a bit worse for wear this morning, you might try a remedy made from the spiky herb, milk thistle, which oozes white liquid when crushed.

A native of Kashmir, its active ingredient is silymarin, a collection of three protective chemicals found in seeds, fruits and leaves. Originally used by nursing mothers to encourage milk production, it has also been found to protect the liver, hence its popularity as a hangover cure.

Solgar, the vitamins manufacturer, cites more than 30 research papers on the herb's medicinal merits. Silymarin is thought to work by inhibiting the factors which damage the liver. It can neutralise the effect of free radicals, and also inhibit the production of leukotrienes, another source of liver damage.

According to Stephen Terrass, Solgar's technical director, milk thistle boosts glutathione which deals with the chemicals produced by alcohol. "Although we are not legally allowed to recommend herbal preparations, because they are not licensed drugs, I have heard that milk thistle is an excellent hangover cure," he says. "It makes sense given the way silymarin works."

ANJANA AHUJA

even mentioned at one point that the fact that Mum and I were so close was another reason for the marriage going wrong. He refuses to accept that the guilt starts with him.

"It's not so much the affair but all the lies he told, and the kind of person he's become. He did this utterly selfish thing and then refuses to accept responsibility for it. It's as though he's still in the same body but there's a different person inside his head, with different values.

I don't know if I can forgive him. I go through phases of thinking how awful and tragic all this is and then I remember the hurt. Friends say to me, 'he's your dad, look at all the things he did for you,' and I think, well sure, he read me bedtime stories but it doesn't excuse what he's done. It's one of the most selfish things you could ever do.

"I try not to think of her. Most of the time I'm indifferent, but also angry and bitter.

"We were the typical happy family, three kids, two cats and a dog. I feel sorrow, real sorrow that my dad did this and thought it would all work out. My only contact with him now is the money he pays into my account every month. He phones Mum occasionally and I just say 'Mum, it's for you'.

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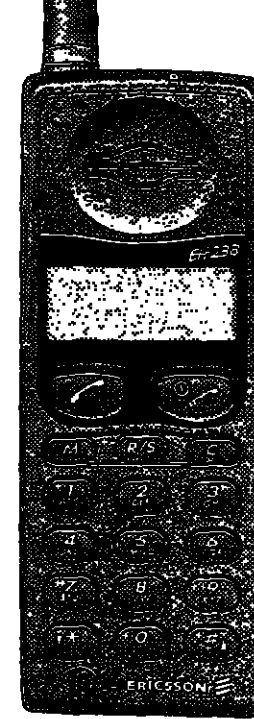
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مكتبة الأمل

Ageing and chocolate

Leslie Kenton, guru of the healthy diet, tells Mary Riddell her recipe for staying young through the menopause

HER AGENT HAD suggested dinner, but I thought on balance not. It was less the thought of grazing through Charolais-sized portions of freshly-garnered foliage with Leslie Kenton than the practical problems this scheme presented.

Where might one find an establishment serving up the just-picked leaves recommended by the great guru of healthy diet and ageless ageing? Quite frankly, at 7pm on a winter day in the inner city, you would, in nutritional terms, be better off chewing the tablecloth. So, no tired old cardboard veg for us. Instead, a pilgrimage to Ms Kenton's tranquil basement pied-à-terre, where previous casual callers had confessed, rather alarmingly, to falling under

'People have the wrong impression of me. I like red wine. I love organic coffee, but not every day'

her spell. Several had returned for more doses of spirituality laced with practical advice on how to debag one's eyes.

One had felt moved to sit under a tree on the way home and meditate on what she had learnt, which, as anyone in dog-ridden north London knows, is not the action of someone in her right mind.

I had expected a serene vision wearing pressed white linen but was greeted instead by a solidly-built woman in a black polyester roll-neck and her skirt inadvertently tucked into her knickers. So far, so normal. We began with a glass of chilled mineral water and a long discussion of the menopause, subject of Ms Kenton's latest best-seller.

Actually, it was not so much a discussion as a monologue, in which I made occasional goldfish mouth movements until warned not to interrupt. "Could I just say one other thing, Mary?" she said sweetly (she insists on instant first-name terms), before rattling on for another ten minutes.

In her chosen field — a sort of super-fertilised literary pasture devoted to endless tracts on healthy eating, rejuvenation and exercise — Ms Kenton reigns supreme. A former beauty editor for *Harpers & Queen*, she is 54 and retains, so it is said, the looks and Californian blonde mane of a woman 20 years younger.

Early forties might be more accurate, but let us not quibble, particularly since Ms Kenton — the mother of four children by four different fathers — has recently, and in a rather neat tribute to her grasp on eternal youth, taken up with Danny, a garage-owner aged 23.

Not that he should be regarded as a trophy for, as she knew from the moment she went in to get her temperature gauge fixed, here was the love



Leslie Kenton: "I said I would only look after my youngest son until he was four. But now it is an honour to be his guardian"

of her life. Even though he offered her a cup of instant coffee (scarcely better than a hemlock chalice in the Kenton list of what-not-to-drink), she was smitten and remains so.

"It was one of those things that was so inevitable. The moment he touched me, I was gone. It was like being touched by an animal." Pardon? "He had the simplicity of a child or an animal. The feeling was terrifying — so strong, a power of nature. And we're best friends as well. We'd be that even if there was no sexual connection. What do you do if the sea crashes over you?"

"It's lovely. I figure that I must have done something right in one of those previous lives. I've only ever had one other relationship like that — with my youngest son. When he was born, his father and all my other children delivered him, but I said I would look after him only until he was four. After that his father could do it. But now I can't speak about our relationship without tears coming into my eyes. I feel it an honour to be his guardian for this time. And Danny is like that."

You wonder how much they may eventually have in common, the streetwise author and the self-educated Land Rover dealer who is younger than two of her sons, but she brushes such quibbles aside.

"Whatever you do is exciting. You go for a walk and it's exciting. You make a salad

and it's amazing. You go to the cinema and it's just fabulous." All this (apart from the bit where the tears come into her eyes) is interspersed with a laugh like a camel's kick, and it is by now just possible that those cynical burger-eaters and coke-swillers among us are thinking uncharitable thoughts, such as: is this woman batty, or what? But that is to misunderstand.

The truth is that there is much in her work which goes beyond the superficial. She is right carefully to question the wisdom of the indiscriminate use of oestrogen-based HRT for menopausal women. (Her central argument, a persuasive one, is that oestrogen is

linked to cancers and osteoporosis, and that natural progesterone is a more beneficial alternative.) She is, moreover, the living proof that eschewing the Mars Bar for the wild yarn gets results.

Plus, she is brimming with unsolicited but good advice. She told me where to buy chocolate, where to find a decent supermarket ("The one I go to, Mary, is a lot better than the one you go to"), and how not to look into the bathroom mirror and see Dracula's grandma staring back. "If the body is toxic, it ages rapidly and the skin looks terrible. You know this yourself."

If you've drunk cham-

pagne, you wake up in the morning looking puffy. You detoxify the body, and you see this wonderful process of rejuvenation. Anyone can do it."

And does she never indulge herself? "Oh yes, absolutely. I drink champagne," she said, sensing a note of criticism. "You have the wrong impression of me. I like red wine. I love organic coffee, adore it, although I don't drink it every day. Danny made me a wonderful cappuccino last Sunday, but I hadn't had one for eight weeks before that."

After that confession of excess, it was uphill all the way. She told me how much she liked chocolate and how she, the visiting Californian, had

once drunk so much malt whisky in some Scottish town ("I think it was called O-barn") that her children referred ever after to her temporary aberration as "mummy's little problem". We had just got on to beluga caviar when the telephone rang.

On the line was a hairdresser friend, asking for a soul retrieval, and if there is one thing Ms Kenton loves more than caviar, it is shamanic healing. "People tend to lose a portion of their soul, so the shamanic practitioner goes into non-ordinary reality to ask if there are any parts of someone's life essence which would be willing to come back."

Non-ordinary reality encompasses rather well an evening with Ms Kenton. The candles, the incense, the spiritual journey, the discussion of the nature of human freedom, the wondering how soon one can decently disappear for a Silk Cut and a glass of wine...

But it does not do to mock, for there is much in Ms Kenton which is admirable. Besides her overwhelming friendliness there is also the fact that, underlying the saccharine and the eccentricity, is an extremely gritty business-woman.

Her books — five more are due out next year — have captivated a generation of women, besides paying for the upbringing of Ms Kenton's

'I don't have any desire for a man I don't respect. He wouldn't do what he said he was going to'

children, whom she adores, and for a splendid home, once owned by Virginia Woolf, on the Pembroke Road coast.

Her cosmetics range made her so much money that she was able to take four years out to write her first novel. Her success gave her the freedom to remove, slightly clinically and at the moment of her choosing, a procession of husbands and lovers from her life.

One, a reformed drinker and a gloomy man, had to go once she realised, halfway through a yoga course in Greece, that it wasn't working. Another, a black revolutionary called Rex, lost his sparkle after she discovered that — although he talked a good revolution — it was generally from the comfort of her kitchen.

"I don't have any desire for a man I don't respect." He wouldn't do what he said he was going to. If you tell me you really want to go to Africa and live with rhinoceroses, I'll say, "Fine, go and do it, Mary. Right now."

I considered this scheme. It certainly had its attractions. ● Passage to Power: Natural Menopause Revolution is published by Vermilion, £9.99.

Itching for the past

Valerie Grove meets Simon Schama, winner of the £10,000 WH Smith Literary Award

Of all the books to win the W.H. Smith Literary Award, the historian Simon Schama's sumptuous *Landscape and Memory* is the weightiest typically, he even supervised the design of his book, down to the creamy 1950s paper that makes it weigh 4lb (paperback 3lb).

What distinguishes Professor Schama is what John Carey, one of the judges, calls "the knack of making the greyest eminence bloom with life". He seems to have been born with a fascination for commonplace things and a recognition that the past is everywhere before us. In his childhood near Southend, he imagined tea-clippers ballooning up the Thames, when they moved near Hampstead Heath, he could envisage the sand-diggers of Constable's day, turning the arcadian heath into a quarry.

Schama's father, Arthur, one of 13 children, was "a Jewish East End textile merchant with the views of Cicero, a 1930s Demosthenes, a street orator who took to the soapbox against Mosley's Blackshirt marchers". He was also an omniscient fount of London knowledge, who believed that "no one could know real happiness who had not gorged on a plate of crisply fried whitebait".

"My father missed his vocation. He should have been an impresario. He took me to the Old Vic to see Richard Burton and John Neville's alternating Iago and Othello. Burton, improbably, was the better Iago. When I was seven he made me learn 'Once more unto the breach, dear friends' for the school concert, and sat in the audience pink with pride."

Schama, 51, sings the praises of Haberdashers' Aske's School, in whose grim Victorian building in Cricklewood he was brilliantly taught. He was a reading-obsessed, scholarly boy, though poor at Latin and appalling at physics. "The physics teacher had eyes of different colours, which changed like traffic lights."

Such was his relish for history that he travelled the Lyceum library before writing an essay on French newspapers of 1848 "and at 16 that didn't seem a chore".

He left the Cambridge don's life for Harvard in 1979 and is much quoted for his story of a Harvard jock who, asked about Italy's role in the First and Second World Wars, said: "You mean there were two?" Now at Columbia, he says: "After 15 years of teaching in

America I've ceased to be shocked. I've screened out my wistfulness for the lack of intellectual curiosity, the itch to get close to the past, beyond textbook platitudes. But there are still students hungry for knowledge, curious and eager. Of those who come to my lectures on the Baroque, at least a third are over 60. They come to Columbia on a general education course: something I've always felt universities should do."

His wife, whom he met at Cambridge, is professor of



Schama: spellbinding

genetics: they live high on a hill above the Hudson River, with space and woodland for the children, Chloe and Gabriel.

Schama's monumental erudition is reflected in the size and scope of his works, such as *Citizens*, on the French Revolution; but some of us have a special fondness for *Dead Certainties*, his imaginative weaving of the deaths of General Wolfe, and a Harvard professor named Parkman: this irritated traditional historians but was utterly spellbinding.

His curiosity is so broad, it is no surprise to learn that after his next book, on the genius of Rembrandt, he plans a history of 19th-century Hawaii. "It's an extraordinarily bewitching place, and an incredible story of the collision of cultures between the Western and the non-European worlds. In the 1850s, when the men lost their immunity to Western diseases, the women of the Hawaiian royal line survived by marrying Scottish customs inspectors."

While in London this week to collect his £10,000 prize he made his first visit to the House of Lords to lunch with his old friend Baroness Hayman, once Helene Middleweek, star of Cambridge Union debates. When he returns to Cambridge to lecture, he finds his old tutors in his audience; and no matter how honoured he has become, he still has a nagging feeling that he is late with his essay, and can hear the words "Oh dear, Schama gets a B again."

INSIDE SECTION
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Penny of big wins, but short on wit
Restoration brings 17th-century spectacle to the silver screen
Review page 31

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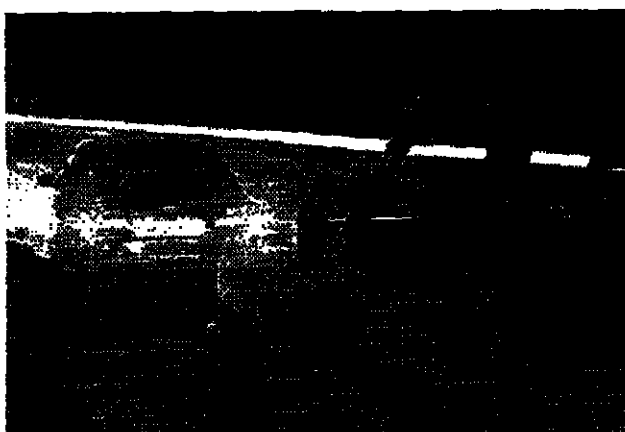
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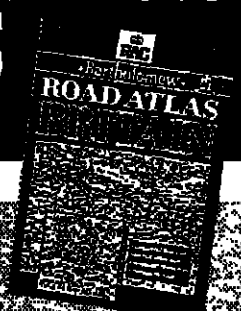


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British red tape: pride of Brussels

Euro-lunacy often begins at home, says Magnus Linklater

Some time ago, I had what I thought a brilliant idea. A team of newspaper reporters should be dispatched to track down every single instance where European bureaucracy had intruded on the British way of life; they should then identify and confront the official responsible for it. At a stroke, I thought, we could demonstrate how much our cherished traditions had suffered from the dead hand of EU regulations, and at the same time explore the motives of the perpetrator.

The reporters — well, two of them actually, since this took place on a cannyly run Scottish newspaper — began investigating cases such as the Arbroath Smokies which could no longer be made in oak barrels because Brussels said they were unsanitary; the island garage-owner put out of business because Euro-regulations said his petrol could no longer be shipped over on the passenger ferry; the country restaurant-owner who had had to fit hugely expensive burglar-alarm and fire-escapes, making the business unviable; the traditional cheese-maker whose product was held by Euro-officials to be riddled with life-threatening bacilli.

Alas, the story failed to "stand up", as we say in the trade. The reporters discovered that in each case the culprit was not some faceless EU bureaucrat, but a faceless British bureaucrat. The legislation was found to have emanated mainly from Whitehall, and the decisions had most commonly been made by the environment department of some local authority. Where European legislation was involved, it had been interpreted and imposed in the most stringent manner by officials who seemed to have been driven less by Euro-fervour than by a dedication to familiar British red tape.

We did come up with one example of Brussels interference: a beach on the Ayrshire coast had apparently failed to comply with EU standards, and the local council had been ordered to clean it up. I was not convinced, however, that this was quite the devastating exposé we had in mind.

The impression that Europe is a convenient scapegoat for much petty bureaucracy that is in fact warmly embraced by British officialdom has been confirmed by two recent events. The first is the case of the bespectacled lorry-drivers, raised in the House of Commons last night. A European directive requires all lorry-drivers who need glasses or contact lenses to pass a sight test without wearing them, even if they have been working safely with them for years; this is apparently because they might be temporarily blinded if their specs fell off. Most European countries, alert to the implications, will not be enforcing it. They will exercise "grandfather rights", which allow holders of licences issued before 1983 to retain them and carry on working. The head of the EU's road transport committee says it will be

up to member states whether they wish to exercise these rights. So far, Britain is the only country that is not doing so. As a result of this absurd regulation, up to 7,000 British drivers could lose their jobs.

Exactly the same trait emerged from the long-drawn-out case of Humphrey Errington, a Borders farmer, and his Lanark Blue cheese. He had been selling it widely for years without any harmful effects when the local environmental health committee seized his stock, brought his business to a halt, and accused him of selling cheese contaminated by listeria. Part of the argument stemmed from a Euro-directive banning the sale of any dairy product containing the bacterium. Since Lanark Blue, like most blue mould cheeses, contains some listeria, albeit of a harmless strain, it seemed they had a reasonable argument.

But that directive would also have meant the end of several famous French cheeses. Not surprisingly, the French Government sought and obtained a "derogation", or opt-out. The British Government took no action until it was forced into doing so by campaigners for Britain's small cheese industry. Instead, it was prepared to stand back and see hundreds of jobs sacrificed.

Mr Errington has now won his case, and been granted all his costs. The Sheriff who heard it was plainly shocked by the way he had been pursued to the bitter end by Clydesdale District Council and its Environmental Health Committee. They had subjected him, he said, to "the time, strain and expense of a long investigation". Their tactics bore "all the hallmarks of a contentious litigation". They had used "all available weapons in the forensic armoury to achieve the condemnation they sought", and the judge accused them of a "litigious pugnacious approach".

What is it in the official mind that will take the pursuit of a health issue to this extreme? And why does Britain, supposedly a place of tolerance and good sense, encourage it? One answer may be that health and safety has become such an overbearing concern in our public life that no official is prepared to risk the smallest error, while the law itself has become ever more punitively. Equally, politicians, who may delight in inveighing against Europe, will not campaign actively against health or safety regulations, however barmy, for fear of being blamed for the next food disaster or boating accident.

There is something of the grim fundamentalist about those who work to excise all risk from our lives. One fears they will not rest until all of us conform to their bleak and soulless world. It is a campaign that creeps steadily forward, and far from being stemmed by governments, it is positively encouraged by them.

Where is that Citizen's Charter when you really need it?



Long-distance leaders

Peter Riddell on the four ministers about to break Lloyd George's record for holding office continuously

Kenneth Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind, Patrick Mayhew and Tony Newton are about to set a record for political longevity — passing the mark set by Lloyd George more than 70 years ago. In a few days, they will have served continuously in office for 16 years and 10 months — longer than anyone at a senior level since Palmerston's 19 years as Secretary at War in the 1810s and 1820s. For them, such ministerial service is a badge of pride, but should it be more a matter of regret? Such dedication to seeking and retaining office produces an unhealthy narrowness of experience and vision. Hence the attractions of fresh, or at any rate distant, figures such as Chris Patten.

In May 1979, when Mr Clarke and his three Cabinet colleagues — as well as Lynda Chalker, now in the Lords — joined the first Thatcher Government, the world looked very different. Leonid Brezhnev ruled the Soviet Union; Tito still dominated a united Yugoslavia; Jimmy Carter was American President; Giscard d'Estaing was French President; Helmut Schmidt was German Chancellor, and Mike Brearley was England captain. Since then England has had 11 cricket captains; much else has changed, but the Clarke quartet have sat behind desks in Whitehall, opened their red boxes and been driven around in official cars. This is a very long time to see life, let alone politics, from one perspective.

That, of course, partly reflects an unusually long period of single-party rule. Other politicians, though not many, have served longer in total as ministers, but that has always been broken by periods in opposition or on the back benches. Churchill was in office for 29 years, but they were spread over 55 years in the Commons. R.A. Butler, the quintessential man of office, served as a minister for 26 of his 36 years as an MP. But the Clarke quartet have not survived simply because the Tories have been in office for so long. Others have fallen by the wayside since 1979. Half of the original Thatcher Cabinet had gone by the mid 1980s, and apart from John Major's current team, 51 ministers have served in the Cabinet since 1979 and departed. Two left because of ill-health, one lost his seat, eight either resigned because of policy differences or personal problems, and 20 were effectively sacked. Only 20 of the 51 can be said, even charitably, to have gone voluntarily.

What distinguishes the Clarke quartet is not their ambition, but their survival qualities. That is partly because of age. With the exception of Sir Patrick Mayhew, who is now 66, the other three were in their 30s or early 40s in 1979 (Mr Rifkind is still only 49) and have spent their political prime in office. They have all proved competent men of office, avoiding either public disasters or policy rows: as leader of the Commons and chairman of several Cabinet committees, Mr Newton has become the classic backroom operator. Mr Clarke has only become more controversial, and becoming Chancellor. They have also all had the key attributes of health and stamina. It is perhaps no coincidence that three are lawyers and have shown flexibility in mastering varying briefs.

But the four are otherwise little different from other career politicians of their generation. A common pattern is for ministers to stay in the Cabinet either until they are forcibly dropped or until they accept, more or less reluctantly, that their time is up and they are unlikely to be promoted. They then depart, either in Norman Fowler's memorable phrase, to spend more time with their families, or, more often, to earn some money in business.

Becoming a minister is so central to a parliamentary career that an increasing number of MPs are leaving the Commons at the election immediately after they lose office, not wishing to stay as backbenchers or hoping for a return to the front bench. The reasons are partly financial, because the salaries of MPs and ministers have failed to keep pace with outside earnings, and partly to do with the supposed impact of the post-Nolan regulations on members' ability to earn money as consultants. But an increasing number believe that the only point of being in the

Commons is to serve on the front bench. Some Tories are leaving in anticipation of a period in opposition. Holding office has become much more important than 25 or 30 years ago. Francis Pym, a former Foreign Secretary, commented on leaving the Commons in 1987 that when he was first elected in 1961, "a comparatively small proportion either wanted to become, or expected to become, ministers. Today it is the legitimate ambition of everybody". A survey by Michael Rush of Exeter University showed that, among the MPs first elected in 1992, 60 per cent of Tories hoped eventually to become ministers, as did 43 per cent of new Labour members.

This trend looks likely to continue, since two-fifths of the Tory candidates to be selected so far in the party's existing seats are already full-time politicians, whether former MPs or special advisers or consultants.

The most striking characteristic of the Blairite Labour Party is its determination to win office. Policy differences, even personal jealousies, are submerged in that aim. Most members of the present Shadow Cabinet have spent the peak period of their political careers in opposition. If Labour fails to win the next election, several leading lights may drop out of frontline politics.

The association of the rise of the full-time politician with a desire for office is perhaps inevitable when so many other careers have become professionalised. There are advantages in long service, since one of the most frequent complaints of civil servants and outside groups is that ministers are moved around too often. But there is a distinction between length of service overall and time in any individual department. All four of the Clarke quartet have mastered the

ways of Whitehall, having served in between four and seven departments each. No one can accuse Mr Clarke or Mr Rifkind of becoming stale. But there are risks too. A Whitehall mentality can develop, cut off from the rest of Parliament, let alone the outside world. This can produce arrogance and impatience with new ideas. Half the current Cabinet have been ministers for at least a decade. Whereas when the Republicans controlled the White House for 12 years, few senior officials survived even the two Reagan terms, let alone through the four Bush years as well.

The present career structure is mainly one-way: an MP rises, then stumbles or tires out; there is seldom a second chance. The exceptions show why it would be better if careers were more varied. Michael Heseltine spent nearly five years on the back benches after resigning over the Westland affair, and returned to a more powerful position than he would ever have had under Margaret Thatcher. A less successful example is Cecil Parkinson, who never matched his 1982-83 power when he returned to the Cabinet in 1987. Sir George Young served as a junior minister for seven years before being dropped in 1986, was a backbencher for four years before being brought back as a senior whip in the dying days of the Thatcher regime, before rising to join the Cabinet last July.

In all these cases, former ministers remained in the Commons before returning to office. It is much harder to return to the Commons and resume a career. Roy Jenkins had a big impact on the politics of the Centre in the early 1980s, but he was never the force in the Commons he had been when he returned in 1982 after 5½ years away. That is Chris Patten's dilemma now. Politics, and Westminster, has changed a lot since he left nearly four years ago. New leaders have emerged. Mr Patten certainly has the backing of the Prime Minister (too obviously so) and the good wishes of many on the Tory Centre-Left. He could also bring fresh insights and his engaging talents. But he has to judge whether he would feel at home in a very different Tory party and House of Commons.

The celebrations of the Clarke quartet's record should perhaps be muted. Their longevity in office is a tribute to their qualities as career politicians. But we might be better governed if ministers had fewer years in office and broader experience.

China menaces Taiwan

Peking's threats are serious, Lawrence Freedman writes

Tomorrow, China will begin test firings of missiles close to Taiwan's two major ports. This follows reports of 150,000 Chinese troops gathering across the Taiwan Straits, including one airborne division, as well as more than 200 combat aircraft, in preparation for large-scale exercises. On Tuesday, speaking to the National People's Congress, the Prime Minister, Li Peng, refused to renounce the use of force while stating his preference for peaceful reunification, and warned that his country would "brook no interference by outside forces".

The Chinese wish to unnerve Taiwanese voters as they prepare for executive and legislative elections on March 23, and to warn off the rest of the world, despite the political and economic chaos which would engulf East Asia if there were a revival of the Chinese civil war.

The idea that China might attempt to take Taiwan by force seems preposterous. But then so did the idea that Argentina would seize the Falkland Islands, or that Iraq would occupy Kuwait. Speculating democracies rarely appreciate the risks that authoritarian governments are prepared to run.

Taiwan is China's most important item of unfinished business, left over from 1949. When the Communists swept to victory in the civil war, the remnants of the Nationalist forces scurried across the Taiwan Straits. Under American protection, they survived, rebuilt their military strength, and turned themselves into one of the first of the Asian economic "tigers".

Peking and Taipei both insisted that there was only one China: they disagreed only over its legitimate government. With neither inclined to resolve the matter by force, a sort of stability resulted. Hopes for unification came to focus on the Hong Kong formula of "one China, two systems". Rapid economic growth would open up China, strengthen business ties and cultural exchanges, leading to direct air and sea links. Eventually the boundary would become a blur. There would be no need for a takeover: they would merge.

This hope has been subverted by democracy, as it is embraced by Taiwan and resisted by China. Peking's disdain for democracy both discourages Taiwanese confidence in the "two systems" formula and allows them to express an interest in independence. The shattering of the "one China" myth would be unbearable for China's leaders. Throughout the communist period, a high priority has been given to the reconstruction of former boundaries — taking over Tibet in 1950, warring with India in 1962, skirmishing with Russia in 1969 and as recently as 1978 moving en masse into Vietnam, after border incidents. The Chinese believe that their overwhelming local power has helped to bring Hong Kong back into the fold next year, to be followed by Macao in 1999.

China's growing stake in the international economy might encourage sensitivity to international opinion. But as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China could veto any sanctions proposed in retaliation to the use of force.

An invasion would undoubtedly trigger uproar in Washington, and calls for a trade boycott, but China is now the sixth largest trading partner of the United States (Taiwan is the seventh) and many would be nervous about making an unstable situation even worse.

The most compelling reason for caution in Peking is that Taiwan would hardly be a walkover. An invasion would require a major amphibious operation against well-defended forces backed by modern aircraft. For the moment this is beyond China's capacity, although rapid economic growth is now funding military modernisation, and Chinese forces need no longer be organised against a Soviet attack. This is not an issue on which Peking can back down. Whatever its short-term intentions, it will not compromise in the long term. The dynamics of such crises can lead to sudden and unwanted escalation. Western leaders must start responding to Chinese behaviour now, rather than waiting until they are confronted with a major emergency.

For John Major, who recently met Li Peng, a smooth transfer of power in Hong Kong squeezes out other issues. The response of the United States, which once deployed troops and even nuclear weapons to defend Taiwan, has also been muted. Grossly intimidating behaviour is apparently tolerable so long as it is assumed that nothing much will happen soon.

All this has reminded Taipei of its isolation, and will encourage China to resort to the same methods any time the Taiwanese appear to have forgotten that they are merely a wayward province. Other East Asian countries which are wary of Chinese ambitions in the long term will be forced to conclude that they can rely on neither international organisations nor external powers — but only, like Taiwan, on their own military strength.

Hare raising

LUVVYLAND is in turmoil. David Hare, the left-wing playwright who won an Olivier award this year for his play *Skylight*, has pulled out in a huff from a similar theatrical prizegiving.

His agent, presumably acting on instructions, has told organisers of the £25,000 Playwright of the Year award that he will not attend the ceremony unless he wins.

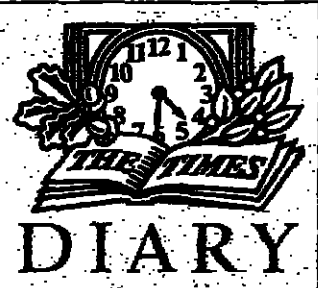
Hare had been shortlisted for the Lloyd's Private Banking award, but the winner and runners-up will not be known until Dame Diana Rigg announces them at the cere-

mony on Sunday. Now, he has told Lloyd's that his name must be removed from all publicity material. Lloyd's is doing its best, but points out that the ten-strong shortlist has already been published. "We greatly respect Mr Hare's work and are disappointed at this decision," says a representative, "but this will not affect the announcement of the award."

Hare's agent is baffled: "David was being very gracious. There are young people who need the award far more than he does. For a young writer it would be a bonanza."

This column is delighted to add its weight to the suggestion floated yesterday by Radio 4, that following the Nuffield report, organs should be transplanted into humans from "specially bred pigs". Meanwhile, readers might like to offer their own candidates.

Dedication
BARONESS Thatcher has been booked for an event that will surely bring a lump to her throat. This autumn, she will re-dedicate the Methodist chapel in which her



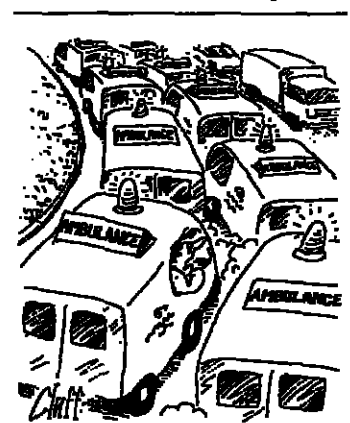
father used to preach — once it has been reassembled in the mid-West. The late Alderman Alf Roberts was as stirring as any lay minister when he fulminated from the pulpit of the chapel in Sproston, near Grantham. But by 1988, the building had been abandoned to the elements. Then a kindly professor from Baker University took a fancy to it. He has arranged for it to be shipped stone by stone across the Atlantic, like London Bridge, to the Kansas campus, where reconstruction is under way. "It fits in well — the university dates from 1858, and the chapel was built in 1864," says a delighted don. And a real baroness to boot!

Lord Jay, who died on yesterday, was much admired as a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, where he would entertain younger members with stories of the days when

he worked on this newspaper. He kept company with Graham Greene, also a sub-editor, with whom he spent more time playing word-games than working.

Poacher

ROBERT KILROY-SILK has taken on the Duchess of York's former press person Dominique Vulliamy, whom Fergie "let go" in January. Dominique, who tells me she reads *The Economist* on her exercise bike of a morning, starts next week on his show, and there are hopes that



"Everyone's heard there's an intensive care bed in Leeds"

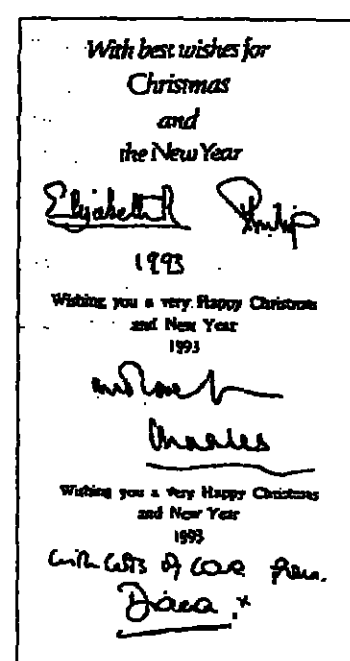
she will persuade Fergie to appear. One of her principal difficulties with "the Duch" was Dominique's pathological loathing for *Hello!* magazine. "But I've always wanted a job in television," she says.

Prince Edward is dipping his toe into the murky waters of his eldest brother's divorce negotiations with the Princess of Wales. Tonight's episode of *Annie's Bar*, the appalling political soap produced by his TV company, Arden, touches on the matter. "Diana is viewed as new Labour material," says a scriptwriter. "Charles is being backed by the shire Tories."

Card sharp

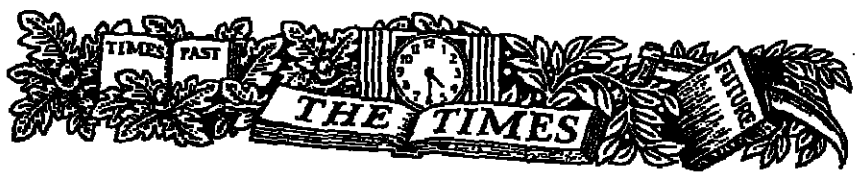
MONARCHISTS are snorting in disgust over what they see as an appalling breach of trust. For what is believed to be the first time, contemporary Christmas cards from the Royal Family have popped up for sale at auction.

Five cards from different royals to "David and Caroline" today go under the gavel in Swindon. Experts suggest that they might originally have been sent to the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, a wonderful lady who died last year. The auctioneer, Dominic Winter, says the vendor was the land agent



Simon Dring said: "If this has anything to do with His Grace or the Duchess then it is done without their knowledge." Were you disloyal enough to bid, the lot could set you back £200.

P.H.S



HONG KONG PHOOEY

Chris Patten is a poor bet to be the next Tory leader

It seems that John Major has found a crown prince across the water. The warm words from the Prime Minister on yesterday's Today programme and the quiet words whispered in correspondents' ears suggest that Mr Major has decided the next leader of the Conservative Party should be the current Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten. An elegant thinker unsullied by association with the failures of the past five years he could, apparently, reinvigorate the Tories in victory, or, as seems more likely, defeat. The rover's return has already provoked chirrupings of the highest excitement.

There remain, however, strong reasons to doubt whether Mr Patten should, or could, ever lead his party. His advocates argue that his time in Hong Kong has dried and deepened a politician who a decade ago was conspicuous for what was then called "wetness". The economic success of the low-tax and light-regulation regime which he presides over in Hong Kong has now converted Mr Patten to arguing for a smaller State in Britain. He is also, apparently, more Eurosceptical, having seen Hong Kong, an offshore island, flourish outside a massive currency union, and having seen how Europe's introversion compares with the breadth of Asian economic ambitions.

Pleading though Mr Patten's conversion to Tory principles of low taxation and national independence may be for a party increasingly at ease with its conservative roots, MPs have a right to ask where this man who may bid to lead his party was when the big battles were being fought. They may remember that in 1981 he contributed to a pamphlet, *Changing Gear*, and in 1983 he wrote a book, *The Tory Case*, which were attacks on liberal economics and critical commentaries on Thatcherism. Both works displayed a skilful pen and supple mind but their author aligned himself with the intellectual opposition to his party's leader.

When it required willingness to take on the collectivist consensus, Mr Patten was found wanting. Conservatives argue that Tony Blair is the wrong choice to lead this

country because he was on the Left and in error in the Eighties and his recent lurch to the Right is designed to woo disaffected Tories. The same could be said, albeit to a lesser extent, of Mr Patten.

But even if Mr Patten should lead the Tories, it seems difficult to see how he could. He has pledged to remain in Hong Kong until at least two months after the last possible date for the next election. The best chance Mr Patten has depends on Mr Major delaying the general election until 1997 and then winning it. But even if Mr Major is still Prime Minister when Mr Patten returns, he cannot easily fix things for his friend.

Mr Patten would have to re-enter the Commons at a by-election and the Tories have not won one for seven years. Voters always enjoy using these polls to punish the Government for wrongs, real or imagined, and particularly relish doing so when the election is caused by a party leader rather than the Grim Reaper. Convincing a constituency association to adopt Mr Patten would be hard: smuggling him past the voters would be harder still.

If the Tories lose, especially if they lose badly this autumn, Mr Patten's prospects look bleaker. The endorsement of a leader who was a loser could be a political black-spot. The succession might be settled before Mr Patten had even eased himself into club class for the journey back to Westminster. Mr Patten's competitors for the crown on the centre-left — Kenneth Clarke, Stephen Dorrell, Malcolm Rifkind and others — are hardly likely to suppress their ambitions for the sake of an absent friend.

If the Tories lose narrowly and John Major is able to stay on for a while then Mr Patten has perhaps another chance. But it is still not a great one. Harold Macmillan was the last Tory leader to engineer the succession on his own terms. He flinched from choosing either a significantly younger, or a more assertive Tory, heir and saw his party take three elections to recover. It is unlikely that Mr Major, even if he wants to, will be able to repeat Macmillan's trick. Perhaps that is no bad thing.

FISH, FISH, FISH

But unless Britain acts now, our nets will soon be empty

Not for the first time, the European Court of Justice has stung Britain with a bad judgment. It has ruled that the Government must compensate Spanish fishermen for loss of earnings incurred during a three-year period from 1989 to 1991, during which they were — in our view rightly — prohibited from catching fish in British waters. Pessimistic actuaries estimate that the sum involved could exceed £30 million — or five-and-a-half billion pesetas, to use a formula with which the fishermen should be more at ease.

As the European summit meeting at Turin approaches, Britain must prepare a crusade in defence of its fishermen, and of those deep-sea resources it has surrendered to common European plunder. After last December's shameful carve-up of the Union's fisheries resources — which brought them no advantage, only loss — Britain's fishermen are angry and bewildered. Monday's ruling by the European Court has incensed them; it should also incense the British Government.

If there is an area of European Union policy whose stench is more disagreeable than any other — more so, even, than agriculture, subsidies for state-run airlines, the Schengen pact or the rotating system of the presidency — it is fish. There is no stack of rules more irrational, no programme more hostile to the conservation of stocks, than the ragbag which passes for the EU's common fisheries policy. It is determined only by the short-term, purlind interests of a handful of vociferous countries: Spain, of course, leads the pack. These countries, which include France and The Netherlands, have pressed for ever more avaricious

quotas, ensuring in the process that "Europe's" stocks will remain forever depleted.

The present policy is responsible for an annual subsidy of about £400 million to Europe's enormous fishing fleet, a bloated third of which is Spanish. By this policy, the EU attempts to reconcile the irreconcilable, the protection of attenuated fish stocks with the short-term economic interests of the fishermen of some of its member states. What the EU needs, instead, is to cut its fleet by three-quarters: why cannot some of this absurd and counterproductive subsidy be used to redirect fishermen into other activities?

Yet no reform would be effective if it failed to address the source of the present crisis: "quota hopping" and flags of fishing convenience. The 1988 Merchant Shipping Act — under which "British" boats of Spanish origin were excluded from our waters — provides a suitable template with which to work. There must be nationality and residence conditions for vessel owners, operators and employees. Fishing companies wishing to register in Britain must prove that their vessels are at least 75 per cent British-owned.

Britain cannot sit back passively and allow its resources to be ravaged and its fishermen put out of work. It cannot even afford merely to record a complaint in the usual polite manner: it must fight against the European fisheries policy in the European way. The time has come for it to demand — with vigour, aggression and the strongest temper — an urgent review of the farce that is the common fisheries policy. Nothing less than a radical, top-to-bottom overhaul will do.

NATIONAL NUNN

A welcome to the new ambassador of theatre

After weeks of backstage whispering, it was yesterday announced that Trevor Nunn is to succeed Richard Eyre as director of the Royal National Theatre. Mr Nunn ought to prove a glittering — if mercurial — artistic ambassador. The National Theatre has long been recognised as the jewel in the crown of British arts. Although in orchestral and operatic terms London, unable to afford the biggest names, has lost some of its sheen, in the realm of theatre it still reigns supreme.

Few things in life are less predictable than success in the theatre. But, inasmuch as any prediction can be made, Mr Nunn has assuredly the artistic vision needed to take the most powerful role in British theatre. During his 18 years as director of the Royal Shakespeare Company he provided some of the greatest moments of the post-war theatre. He is a proven animator of classical texts, a teaser of cryptic couplets and a scraper of harnessed conventions. If the RSC is eventually to return to its roots and leave the capital, the National Theatre will be well equipped to assume its mantle in London.

But Mr Nunn's repertoire is wider too — from his Glyndebourne production of *Porgy and Bess* to his highly naturalistic *Peter Grimes*. In the world of musical spectacular he has revealed himself a maestro with the Midas touch, directing the most commer-

cially successful shows of our era, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Chess* included.

There has been criticism that Mr Nunn's commitment to administrative duties will fall short of those required for the running of such a complex and delicately balanced organisation as the RNT. But the National is an institution designed for the direction of a single powerful figure. At Stratford he did acquire the reputation of an absentee landlord. But let us accept the case that he was youthful and ambitious then. At 28 he was the youngest-ever artistic director of the RSC: he had a reputation and a fortune still to make. Now 56, the oldest of the candidates in contention for British drama's most influential job, he ought to prove more stable than the younger contenders.

Mr Nunn can now afford to let other, more youthful talents flourish. His own wisdom of age and experience will be called into play when he comes to address the future of the National Theatre itself. He will have to weigh up the balance between tradition and experiment, commercialism and artistic idealism. In his five-year term he will have to establish the role of the RNT in the new millennium. His predecessor, Richard Eyre, did a magnificent job for the nation and its theatre. Mr Nunn is the best choice both to succeed him and to succeed for the National.

Call for Islam to condemn bombers

From the Chief Rabbi

Sir, The people of Israel have taken significant risks for the sake of peace. So, too, have moderate Palestinians. This week those risks have been repaid by terrorism, carnage and the destruction of innocent life.

Religion can inspire great good. It can also be used blasphemously to justify great evil. It can drive the search for peace. But it can also lead clerics to teach suicide bombers to believe that they can find their way to heaven by killing children.

At such times religious voices need to be heard. Along with other Jewish leaders, I have raised my voice loudly in condemnation when violence has been committed by Jews. I now call on leaders of Islam throughout the world unequivocally to condemn this tragic perversion of their faith.

It took a grievous tragedy, the Holocaust, to teach Christians and Jews to find a new way to speak and live peacefully with one another. That new way now needs to be joined by leading figures within Islam. How many more tragedies must we endure before the sanctity of life takes precedence over the sanctification of bloodshed?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SACKS,
Office of the Chief Rabbi,
735 High Road, N12,
March 6.

'Poaching' doctors

From Miss Jane Trembath

Sir, It was ironic to read how South African doctors are being snapped up by British hospitals (letters, February 15, 22, 24), especially as the first of 600 Cuban doctors arrived in South Africa last week to fill our need in the rural areas, under a scheme thought up by Mrs S. Nkomo's Zuma, the Health Minister.

Mrs Zuma said on television last night that they don't speak English (or any other South African language), unlike the doctors trained in this country at taxpayers' expense, who are leaving our shores in droves.

Perhaps British hospitals could hold back on employing them at least until they have served a period of community service in South Africa.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. TREMBATH,
167 Cranbourne Avenue,
Benoni 1501,
Gauteng, South Africa,
March 3.

Lottery access

From Mr Granville Davies

Sir, Is it not time that the National Lottery, like other monopolies in the past, be opened up to competition to improve its efficiency and give consumers a genuine choice?

As with British Gas, the same supply lines could be used to allow competitors equal access to the market.

Yours truly,
GRANVILLE DAVIES,
5 Warren Wood, Warren Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex,
March 5.

Lawyers' code

From Mr F. Walford Taylor

Sir, So solicitors are to be issued with "guidelines" on how to behave (report, March 6).

As a solicitor of over 40 years' standing I find this deeply offensive. When I entered the profession there was a well known saying that "solicitors are gentlemen by statute", although, in fairness, the Secretary of the Law Society at the time was unable to find authority for the proposition, despite considerable research.

Instead of foisting upon us pathetic and verbose politically-correct guidelines, if it is really deemed necessary, would not a simple reminder to us that we should act like gentlemen — I'm sorry, gentlemen — be quite sufficient?

Yours faithfully,
F. WALFORD TAYLOR,
Southlands,
29 Compton Way,
Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey.

VCs by post

From Mrs J. N. P. Watson

Sir, The fact that the widow of John Taylor, who won the Victoria Cross at Sebastopol (report, February 24), was not permitted to attend the first such investiture in 1857 and had the medal posted to her is of particular interest to my family.

My uncle, Lieutenant Maurice Dease, Royal Fusiliers, the first to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War, was killed at the battle of Mons, 1914. The award was posthumous.

His parents also received the medal by post — in an unregistered envelope. It was recently donated by my brother, Major Maurice French, to the Royal Fusiliers Museum in the Tower of London.

Yours faithfully,
LAVINIA WATSON,
Pannett's,
Shipley, Horsham, Sussex,
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Armed Services' bar to homosexuals

From Mr Marcus Walker

Sir, Your Defence Correspondent is wrong to suggest (report, March 5) that the unpopularity of gays among military personnel provides the Government with "ammunition to fight legal battles in the European Court of Human Rights". The legal offices of the Government suspect that they will probably lose before the ECHR. Opinions held in the Armed Forces make no difference whatsoever.

Besides being of dubious legality, the ban on gays in the Armed Forces is morally wrong. The MoD is not claiming that homosexuality is unfavourable or that gays are intrinsically unfit to serve. It wants gay personnel expelled because their colleagues are intolerant and their open presence would hurt group cohesion.

This is entirely unrelated to gays' own professional conduct and no better than keeping black soldiers away from whites to avoid friction. How ironic that racial prejudice in the military is treated as something that must be challenged rather than catered to.

It is worth recalling how US service chiefs once urged that racial desegregation would harm the morale, discipline, efficiency and operational effectiveness of hitherto white units. They also argued that the forces were "not a sociological laboratory". Yet the Truman and Eisenhower administrations proceeded to abolish racial restrictions, at least partly due to civil rights pressure.

This did indeed lead to friction and sometimes violence. The US Armed Forces survived, as would Britain's if they accepted the rather similar problems connected with allowing gays to serve.

When the MoD's report is considered by Parliament MPs should ask themselves whether overwhelming hostility towards including black soldiers and warnings of effects on units' performance would justify a policy of exclusion. If not, why are gays a different case?

Yours faithfully,
MARCUS WALKER,
Researcher, Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies,
70 Leventon Street, NWS.

Benefits to Irish of prolonged peace

From Professor Dermot McAleese

and Professor John E. Spencer

Sir, The positive profile of Ireland, North (NI) and South (RI), arising from the peace process has already given a major boost to tourism, external investment and the local economy. A period of sustained peace would assure more economic benefits in the future.

Tourism has already been given an immense boost. Average room occupancy for NI hotels during 1995 rose to 62 per cent, the highest rate since records began in 1973; holiday visitors were up 68 per cent on the 1994 level and total revenue from visitor tourism is up 20 per cent. A 1995 study by Indecon consultants, based on opinion surveys of international tour operators, indicates that a lasting peace could boost tourist numbers to NI by 117 per cent, and to RI by 44 per cent.

Inward investment also shows evidence of increasing sharply. In the first eight months after the ceasefire 200 visits were made by US firms to NI, compared with 25 for the whole of 1994. According to the Indecon survey, existing multinationals believe that inward investment to NI could increase by almost 51 per cent and to RI by 33 per cent if the peace process is sustained.

Benefits can also be expected from increased cross-border trade, from sharing infrastructural resources and from elimination of the economic waste caused by the violence: wasted time in queues and traffic delays, wasted effort and a sense of futility and hopelessness — not to mention wasted lives.

A study published last July by the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation concluded that if a comprehensive

From Mr Peter Tatchell

Sir, The Ministry of Defence report claims that accepting homosexuals into the Armed Forces would undermine morale and fighting efficiency.

Yet at the moment in British history when military morale and efficiency were most vital — during the Second World War, as Britain faced the threat of Nazi invasion — vast numbers of homosexuals were allowed to serve in combat units, some quite openly. The strict exclusion of gays was halted.

Many homosexual war veterans recall that they were accepted without complaint by their fellow soldiers and commanding officers.

They also recall that after the Nazis were defeated the Armed Forces hypocritically resumed their anti-gay purges, proclaiming homosexuals "unfit" for military service. Gay soldiers who had been regarded as war heroes were dishonourably discharged or court-martialled and jailed.

Lesbian and gay service personnel are, it seems, enlisted whenever it suits the Ministry of Defence and discharged whenever it doesn't.

Yours etc,
PETER TATCHELL,
45 Arrol House,
Rockingham Street, SE1,
March 5.

From Miss Irena Ray-Crosby

Sir, I was horrified to read of the instances of homophobia in the Armed Forces.

It defies belief that, according to the anonymous responses given to the questionnaire which you report today, some service personnel would not give a gay man first aid, would let him die of hypothermia and so on, simply because he is gay.

The Government should be combating this murderous prejudice, not encouraging it by upholding the current ban.

Yours faithfully,
IRENA RAY-CROSBY,
41 Chatterton Road, N4,
March 5.

Prospective title of new republic

From Lord Dacre of Glanton

Sir, Mr Terry Donnelly asks (letter, March 5), what shall we call our new State after the monarchy has been dismissed, the House of Lords declared redundant, and Scotland and Wales allowed to secede? Our history provides a perfectly good answer.

In 1649 the monarchy was dismissed, the House of Lords was declared redundant, and Scotland and Ireland seceded. The new State was called "The Commonwealth of England": an admirable title.

It is true it did not live up to its prospectus. Scotland and Ireland were subjected by force, the Government became a military dictatorship, and its reformed Upper House was a fiasco. After ten years the brave new republic collapsed and the old system was restored.

The restored monarch, King Charles, was not ideal (few rulers are) and his love-life was censured by severe moralists, but the nation found him more to its taste than the alternative which it had experienced. That, however, is another matter.

Yours faithfully,
DACRE OF GLANTON,
House of Lords,
March 5.

From Mr Warren W. Williams

Sir, A. L. Donnelly asks what the new republic should be called after power is devolved to Scotland and Wales, after the Labour Party comes to power and does the monarchy in. I'll tell you what it should be called: stupid.

Sincerely yours,
WARREN W. WILLIAMS,
The Coach House,
20 Western Lane, Mumbles,
Swansea, West Glamorgan,
March 5.

Juries and justice

From Mr Michael Stephen

MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, I disagree with Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC (letter, March 1), see also letters, February 22, 26), that previous convictions are not logically relevant to the issue of guilt in a later case.

Most ordinary people, if asked to decide whether a man had committed an act of violence or an act of dishonesty, would consider it relevant that he had shown himself capable of such behaviour in the past. Of course, that does not prove that he has done it again, but it is a factor to be considered.

On the "give a dog a bad name" principle, the law of evidence at present keeps magistrates and juries in the dark about these facts, and many consider themselves cheated when, after acquittal, they discover that a long history of serious criminality has been concealed from them.

Of course, it is an injustice if an innocent man is convicted, but it is no less an injustice for a guilty man to go free.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STEPHEN,
Member of Commons,
March 1.

From Mr Nicholas Baker

Sir, Jurors are not paid (Mr Graham Chainey's letter, February 26); they are compensated for loss of earnings. If not in work at the time of jury service, clearly a juror cannot claim for such a loss, but will not lose out on income support or benefits.

An unemployed person therefore suffers no loss by doing jury service. It is only the employed who earn more than £225 per week who may find themselves poorer for the experience — at least in direct financial terms.

Such is the price to be paid for a system of justice which may not be perfect, but is certainly more attractive than some on offer in other jurisdictions.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BAKER,
17 Criffel Avenue, SW2,
February 27.

Naval role

From Commander N. R. Messinger

RNR (ret'd)

Sir, The Royal Navy is in danger of becoming a cure in search of a disease. Instead of raising spectres of new and more frightening Akula-class Russian submarines (report, February 19), perhaps it could be deployed on an assignment of real national significance, namely the defence and protection of this island nation's valuable marine environment.

The time has come to beat Swiftsures into salvage tugs.

Yours etc,
NICK MESSINGER,
Guggleton Farm, Stalbridge, Dorset,
March 1.

Animal wrongs

From Councillor David A. Cooper

Sir, Normally a devotee of Matthew Parris's political sketches, I believe he crossed the threshold of common decency today in comparing MPs to bats. This was grossly insulting to bats.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. COOPER,
45 Salehurst Road,
Rushmore St Andrew,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
March 6.

Business letters, page 27

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

Lord Jay, PC, President of the Board of Trade, 1964-67, and Labour MP for Battersea North, 1946-53, died yesterday aged 88. He was born on March 23, 1907.

Douglas Jay had one of the ablest and most original minds in the postwar Labour Party. He did much to clarify the party's thinking and formulate its economic policies in the period immediately after the war. In the aftermath of the 1959 election — a modernist before his time — he shocked many party members and embarrassed the leadership by suggesting that Labour should drop nationalisation from its programme, change its name and shed its working-class image.

In his later years in politics Jay's main concern lay with opposing Britain's entry into, or continued membership of, the European Union. His anti-Europeanism was not just a matter of xenophobia, although there was an undoubted element of this in his make-up. It was said, for example, that he always carried a packet of English sandwiches — or even a British pork pie — in his briefcase on trips to the Continent so that he did not have to subject himself to the dangerous uncertainties of foreign food.

But in reality he was one of the last of the old "blue water" school of economists and politicians; he believed that Britain should trade naturally across the world, buying food and raw materials in the cheapest markets.

temperament, as befitted his Winchester and New College upbringing, Jay was a quiet, rather severe intellectual who set himself high standards of public conduct and sought influence rather than power. He never seemed to worry much about the impression which he created upon others. A minor manifestation of this was his indifference to how he looked or dressed — though favouring double-breasted suits, they always somehow appeared ill-fitting and in his later years his jacket and tie were often speckled with food-stains.

As a Commons performer, he was much better than he sounded. Although he had a nice taste for the acidulated phrase, he disdained histrionics and had no capacity to beguile or to entertain. He sometimes gave the impression of forcing

himself into an aggressive political posture because he thought it was expected of him, though privately he knew it was all a lot of nonsense.

This lent him a sardonic air, which his tall, gaunt, untidy figure did nothing to remove. But his qualities of integrity and modesty earned him the solid respect of colleagues in both the House of Commons and, later, the House of Lords. Those who knew him best had a wealth of affection for him.

Douglas Patrick Thomas Jay was the son of Edward Aubrey Hastings Jay of Hampstead and Isobel Violet Jay. At Oxford, where he was a contemporary (as he had been at school) of Hugh Gaitskell and Dick Crossman, he won the Chancellor's English Essay Prize and took firsts in both Mods and Greats. He was a Prize Fellow of All Souls from 1930 to 1937. Meanwhile, he had joined the staff of *The Times* and was on its sub-editorial staff from 1929 until moving to *The Economist* in 1933. He was there for four years and then worked on the *Daily Herald* as City Editor for another four.

In 1937 he brought out *The Socialist Case*, a persuasive and well-argued exposition of what he called "democratic socialism" stated largely in economic terms. It was in this book, later republished, that he used a form of words often quoted (and misquoted) out of context against him. He wrote that in the case of nutrition and health, just as in education, "the gentleman in Whitehall really does know better what is good for people than the people know themselves". In spite of his protests that the implications drawn from a selective quotation conveyed the reverse of his general argument, his political opponents cherished and endlessly repeated these words as a classic statement of Fabian arrogance and elitism.

Jay was an assistant secretary at the Ministry of Supply, 1941-43, and spent the last two years of the war as a principal assistant secretary at the Board of Trade. When Clement Attlee won the 1945 general election — something Jay frankly confessed only last year that he had never remotely foreseen happening — the new Prime Minister chose the able young socialist civil servant as his personal assistant inside No 10. It



was a modest but useful introduction to the corridors of power.

In 1946 Jay went to the Commons, by way of a by-election in the safe Labour seat of Battersea North, which he continued to represent for the next 37 years. The following year he was made Economic Secretary to the Treasury, a Whitehall department which suited him perfectly. He enjoyed working with Sir Stafford Cripps, a Chancellor whose ideas coincided with his own — Jay was a born planner

— and he stood loyally by Cripps, playing a crucial part during his chief illness, over the devaluation crisis of 1949. From 1950 to 1951 he was Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

In Opposition after 1951 Jay, as shadow President of the Board of Trade, steadily established himself as one of his party's leading experts on the economics of industry and commerce. The new Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, came increasingly to rely on him as one of his most loyal,

level-headed and sagacious lieutenants. In the middle of the agony of self-analysis which followed Labour's defeat in the 1959 general election, Jay sprang a mine which many (wrongly) thought Gaitskell himself had prepared. In an article in *Forward*, by then the loyalists' rival to *Tribune*, he argued that the word nationalisation had become damaging to the party and that it should be dropped from the new programme. This and his counsel that it was time to get rid of the "working-class image" set off a detonation which was to echo for months while the original battle over Clause Four was fought and lost by Gaitskell.

Jay stood his ground, unperturbed by the furor he had created. He developed his case more fully in *Socialism in a New Society* which came out in 1962. Meanwhile he stood firmly by Gaitskell's side in the tussles over the latter's leadership and in September 1962 had the satisfaction of seeing his leader — just before he died in January 1963 — come down on the anti-side of the party argument over the Common Market.

By the time Harold Wilson came to form his first Government in October 1964 the old controversies had been largely forgotten, and his choice of Douglas Jay as President of the Board of Trade was acclaimed as a just recognition of his talents. Although his department had ceased to have the policy-making functions it had once possessed — he merely had to carry the can for the Wilson Government's initial 15 per cent imports surcharge that had been decided upon against his unavailing protests — he found plenty to occupy him, particularly in the detailed application to industry of the prices and incomes policy.

Although he was probably happiest working at his desk in London, he also travelled abroad a good deal, and he was the first British minister to visit Communist China.

During the summer recess of 1967, Wilson arranged to meet Jay at the convenient if unlikely, venue of Plymouth railway station. There he told Jay that he wanted his Cabinet Ministers to be under 60. There was no doubt, however, that the real reason for Jay's dismissal from office was his increasingly overt campaign against British membership of the Euro-

pean Economic Community (the *Daily Mirror*, then still under the control of Cecil Harmsworth King, had been clamouring for his head for months).

He spent his last 16 years in the Commons as a rather lonely backbencher, largely preoccupied with the European issue. He articulated his opposition to the EEC in his *After the Common Market*, published in 1968, and from 1970 to 1977 was chairman of the Common Market Safeguards Campaign. He was a prominent member of the "No" lobby in the national debate which preceded the referendum on Britain's continued membership of the EEC in June 1975. He retired from the Commons in 1983 and in 1987, somewhat belatedly, was raised to the Upper House at the age of 80.

Jay's was a thrifty nature, verging, except in sexual matters, on the austere. (Before they were engaged, he warned his first wife that he regarded monogamy as a sin; and when she shyly asked for an engagement ring, she was sent ten shillings and told to go out and buy one herself.)

It was perhaps characteristic that one of his greatest pleasures lay in the usually solitary occupation of walking. In his younger days he had once covered the distance from Magdalen College, Oxford, to Marble Arch in 11 hours and he and Dick Crossman thought nothing of walking together the 32 miles from Oxford to Winchester. For him long-distance hikes were an unexciting but satisfying pursuit — rather like economics. After some illuminating pages on his youth, his autobiography, *Change and Fortune* (1988), also had an appropriately dry academic flavour.

He was twice married. In 1933 he married, when she was just 20, Margaret Christian Garnett who, as Peggy Jay, went on to have a public career of her own. They had two sons — the older of whom, Peter Jay, was British Ambassador to Washington from 1977 to 1979, and is now Economics Editor of the BBC — and twin daughters.

This marriage was dissolved in 1972. In the same year he married his former secretary, Mary Lavinia Thomas. She survives him, together with his first wife and the children of that marriage.

JOYCE HICKS

Joyce Hicks, OBE, fire-fighter and golfer, died on February 28 aged 95. She was born on May 27, 1900.

In 1941 Joyce Hicks was made one of the first women "brass hats" of the National Fire Service, and put in charge of recruitment. But her real moment of fame came during one autumn night in 1940 when, completely disregarding personal safety, she drove a small band of men from Barnes to the London Docks to fight one of the worst blazes of the Blitz.

It was the night of September 7-8, and homes in the East End had been set ablaze for many miles around by enemy bombers in a concerted attack. Further up the Thames, crowds from Castelnau to Richmond Hill gathered on the streets to watch the dreadful crimson glow emanating in the east, and the pall of smoke which hung in the air. Thousands of firemen arrived on the scene.

In Barnes a group of fire-fighters, organised by Chief Officer F. W. Hutchinson, was



Joyce Hicks by Norman Hepple, 1942

assembled to help colleagues in the East End. Women fire officers were generally not employed in the actual fighting of fires, although those in Barnes had been given more responsibility than many of their colleagues elsewhere in

London. Joyce Hicks was then staff car driver to Hutchinson, and she insisted on accompanying him, despite the continued risk of falling bombs and shrapnel, to the East End. There she demonstrated considerable personal bravery on the scene. The men around her worked throughout the night to contain the blaze.

This incident had greater repercussions than anyone could have envisaged at the time. In February the following year, Hutchinson wrote a moving article about the night's events, under the heading of *Fighting Blitz Fires in London's Dockland for Fire* magazine.

Because of wartime restrictions, actual place names and the identity of the Barnes team could not be disclosed, but considerable curiosity about the identity of Hutchinson's brave woman driver was sparked, and not just in Britain. The article was reprinted in American and Canadian fire-fighting journals, where it was much talked about among firemen, particularly when they discovered how

many of their British counterparts were routinely being killed in the course of their duties. From this, various appeals and funds were set up in America to support the dependents of those in Britain who had fallen.

Joyce Sybil Edkins, as she was before marriage, was born in Hampstead, the only child of John Edkins, Professor of Physiology at Bedford College, London. Joyce gained a First in Physiology at Bedford in 1923 and the following year, after a brief spell as a science teacher, married Vyvyan Hicks, a chartered surveyor.

That was the end of her professional career, and she never had children. But she was an enthusiastic sports-woman. She had represented her university at lawn tennis and hockey, and now she took up golf, and played for Surrey. On a number of occasions she partnered Kitty Godfree on Centre Court at Wimbledon (although never during Wimbledon fortnight).

Joyce Hicks joined the Women's Auxiliary Fire Service in the spring of 1939,

initially as a part-time driver of trailer-pump appliances in the Barnes brigade, but then fulltime with the outbreak of war (her husband had joined the Home Guard).

By the summer of the following year, the local authority had decided to dispense with the services of women drivers, but she stayed on as a volunteer driver of her chief's car. During the heavy raids on London in the autumn of 1940, she hardly ever left her post. She would return home for a few hours at the weekends to see to her domestic affairs, but she slept with two other women auxiliaries in a dug-out.

In 1941, when the Fire Service was nationalised, she was one of the three women appointed staff officers at the National Fire Service headquarters at the Home Office, thus becoming one of the first three women "brass hats". Joyce Hicks oversaw an intensive recruitment campaign, a job for which she was particularly suited by her tactful, unflappable manner.

In 1943 she was promoted to Deputy Chief Woman Fire Officer, and she ended the war in Cambridge as Regional Woman Fire Chief for the Eastern Region. She was appointed OBE in 1945. Although she resigned her position at the end of the war, she remained actively involved with the London Fire Brigade, mostly in training, until 1954.

Golf was her main passion thereafter. She moved on to the national level of the game's organisation in various capacities, and became president of the English Ladies Golfing Association in 1977, when she was then in her mid-seventies.

Joyce Hicks lived, alone in later years (her husband died in 1963), in Mayfield in East Sussex. She was a passionate gardener, and a regular attendant and flower arranger at St Dunstan's in Mayfield.

Sir James Sutherland, Professor of Modern English Literature at University College London, 1951-67, died on February 24 aged 95. He was born on April 26, 1900.

JAMES SUTHERLAND was a world authority on early 18th and late 17th-century literature. To the public he was perhaps best known as the author of the *Oxford Book of English Verse* and more especially the *Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes* — a tome which must have filled many a Christmas stocking in the 20 years since its publication.

As a scholar, however, Sutherland won most recognition for works like his comprehensive 1937 biography of Defoe or his 1943 Tuckwell edition of *The Dunciad* — Pope's satirical tilt at Grub Street. His studies of the 18th century led him back towards the Restoration, particularly British prose between 1660 and 1700. He wrote the volume covering that period for the *Oxford History of English Literature* and even at the age of 85 produced a seminal study *The Restoration Newspaper and its Development*.

His list of publications was impressive not only for its length but for its breadth. If he specialised on Pope, Defoe, Swift et al, he was also extremely knowledgeable on Wordsworth and produced editions of Shakespeare and other playwrights. He was a formidable researcher with worldwide contacts, particularly on the American West Coast, and books like his *Background for Queen Anne*, published just before the Second World War, show the scope of his academic curiosity.

James Runciman Sutherland was born in Aberdeen, the son of a stockbroker. He was christened simply James, but added the Runciman part himself in memory of his

maternal grandfather with whom he spent much of his childhood. He also had two older sisters, the younger of whom died at 14, a loss over which he grieved throughout his life.

Sutherland went from Aberdeen Grammar School to Aberdeen University and then to Oxford before taking up his first lectureship at the University of Saskatchewan in 1921.

Returning from Canada he taught at Merton College, Oxford, 1923-25, winning the Chancellor's English Essay Prize while there, then at Southampton and Glasgow



before obtaining his first senior lecturer's appointment at UCL in 1930, followed by the chair of English Literature at Birkbeck College six years later. From Birkbeck he went to Queen Mary College before returning to UCL as the Northcliffe Professor of English in 1951 — a post which he held for 16 years until his retirement in 1967. As such he was joint head of the department, although by mutual agreement he left most of the administration to his colleague, Professor Hugh Smith.

A distinguished editor of the *Review of English Studies*

between 1940 and 1947, Sutherland was also visiting professor at a number of universities including Harvard, Indiana, California, Pittsburgh and New York. He gave the Warton lectures at English Academy, the Sir Walter Scott lectures at Edinburgh, the Clark lectures at Cambridge, the Alexander lectures at Toronto, and was also public orator at London University, 1957-62. He received many academic honours.

Sutherland's strengths included not only his assiduous research but his clear and direct prose style which made his works so accessible. As a young man he even produced a volume of his own poetry, followed by a novel. But he soon abandoned creative writing in favour of literary criticism and scholarship.

A quiet, rather shy man, Sutherland was completely without pretence. His many friends remember him tucked up in an armchair with his pipe and a glass of malt whisky, distilling his own dry Scots humour. This humour also found expression in the Crabtree Society which he helped to found in 1954. UCL staff who belong to it take it in turns at their annual dinners to lecture on their mythical polymath Joseph Crabtree. Pope and Swift would surely have approved of Sutherland's inaugural address "Homage to Crabtree", 42 years ago. In his younger days he had been a close friend of Virginia Woolf and other members of the Bloomsbury Group.

Sutherland was very belatedly knighted in 1992. He was twice married. His first wife Helen was an advertising copywriter. She died in 1975 and two years later he married his second wife Eve, widow of the film critic Ernest Betts. She survives him, together with his stepson — in whose children the indulgent Sutherland found some compensation for having none of his own.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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MUSICIAN and singer for a band. Must be able to play guitar and sing. Contact: 01753 464943.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
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SITUATIONS VACANT

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The London office of a prestigious Washington, D.C. based law firm seeks a lawyer educated and qualified in the United States with a minimum of 2 years of work experience to participate in a large and growing multinational intellectual property practice. The work involves direct and supervisory involvement in litigation, legislative and commercial efforts on behalf of blue chip high technology companies in more than 27 countries. Candidates should have experience in litigation or in copyright and trademark practice and excellent academic records at leading U.S. law schools. Please Reply to Box No 4297

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Help us to deliver the greatest gift of all. Every donation or legacy makes a difference. Research into ageing. Improving the Quality of Life. The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Registered Charity No. 277668

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NEW CLASH IN MOSCOW

War on Peasants Opposed

Riga, March 6.

Serious new dimensions in the Communist Party in Moscow are apparently breaking out. A section of Bolshevik economists, which enjoys the partial support of the Rykov-Kalinin group (Rykov is president of the Union Council of People's Commissars; Kalinin, head of the Union Central Executive Committee), has been stubbornly insisting at numerous conferences at the Kremlin and at meetings of the Political Bureau of the Party in the last few weeks on the internal and external perils of the recent tendency to readopt the methods of "militant" Communism — that is, the Communism which was in vogue before Lenin introduced his New Economic Policy giving a measure of freedom to private traders. The dissenting section opposes chiefly the latest onslaught on the more prosperous peasantry, the increase in rural taxation, the revival of plans to establish "collective village husbandry", and the further suppression of private trade. It is pointed out that these measures are creating widespread and acute discontent by convincing the masses that it is intended to reintroduce the card system of rationing and the total prohibition of private

ON THIS DAY

March 7, 1928

Outspoken opposition in the Soviet Union had not yet, it appears, been entirely crushed

period of Bolshevism are gaining an ever-widening currency. Even friendly Germany, they say, is affected by the reports as is reflected by the Press and by the progress of the present negotiations in Berlin in regard to German-Soviet trade relations. Stalin's group — Stalin is Secretary-General of the Communist Party — insists, however, that it is most important at the present moment to retain the sympathies of Left-wing Communist circles, as otherwise Trotskyism will reappear. The Stalin group, therefore, is urgently introducing numerous measures which the Opposition has advocated. The *Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn*, the organ of the Council of Labour and Defence, discusses guardedly the divergences. It denies formally any intention to destroy the N.E.P., yet states that the party leaders have decided "to cease retreating and to begin a counter-advance against the private capitalist sector of the economic front of the countryside, determined not to rest until the enemy is utterly destroyed. In furtherance of its grain campaign, which was inaugurated some weeks ago, the Soviet last week appointed a "Dictator of Crops", who was instructed, among other matters, to overcome what was called the resistance of the comparatively well-to-do peasants.

NEWS

Taylor warns of frenzy in courts

The Lord Chief Justice launched a devastating attack on the Government's entire criminal justice programme, warning that its torrent of "ill-prepared" legislation would undermine public confidence.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth said that major criminal justice legislation was threatening to become an annual event like the Budget, and he complained that a clipboard army of management consultants was adding to the pervading sense of frenzy and uncertainty in the courts. Page 1

Labour draws back on fundholding

Labour is dropping plans for the immediate scrapping of GP fundholding in the latest policy shift to be pushed through by Tony Blair. It is to allow existing fundholders to continue holding their own budgets during consultation. Pages 1, 4

Obituary row

The daughter of the former Labour minister Douglas Jay, who died yesterday, complained hours after his death about an "offensive" obituary. Page 1

Trapped in lift

A woman trapped alone in a small lift in an empty office block for 21 hours was recovering from her ordeal after eventually being freed by firemen. Page 1

Spy plane project

The Defence Ministry is considering a proposal to spend up to £750 million on American U2 spy planes. Page 2

Killer inquiry

A man suffering from paranoid schizophrenia killed his mother and half-brother five weeks after leaving a mental hospital. As Anthony Smith, 25, began unlimited detention at Rampton secure hospital, an independent inquiry began into his care. Page 3

Health plan

Stephen Dorrell came under fire from the medical profession after outlining a plan to improve intensive care units after scandals involving bed shortages for critically ill children. Page 4

Transplant welcome

The prospect of animal organs being used to give humans an extra lease of life was given a cautious welcome by an expert group. Page 6

EU hard cheese for cheddar

Anybody passing off common English beef as Scottish or abusing the good name of Gorgonzola will be in trouble under proposed European regulations. The items are among 318 regional food products that the European Commission deems worthy of protection. Cheddar cheese does not qualify because its name is a generic description. Page 5

Breathless Nunn

Trevor Nunn took centre stage at the National Theatre to be confirmed as director. He spoke of "breathless" excitement. Page 7

Aitken's 'ruin'

Jonathan Aitken told MPs how allegations that he had known about arms exports to Iran had ruined his life. The claims ended his ministerial career and damaged his reputation. Page 8

Anti-terror airlift

The US increased its role in the battle against Islamic terrorism when the first plane in an airlift of bomb detection equipment landed at Tel Aviv. Page 12

Vichy trial

A Bordeaux court began a hearing to decide whether Maurice Papon, the last surviving senior official of the Vichy regime, should stand trial for allegedly sending hundreds of French Jews to their deaths. Page 13

Forbes fights on

Steve Forbes and Pat Buchanan vowed to fight on despite the apparent lock Robert Dole now has on the Republican presidential nomination. Page 14

Iron curtain lady

The 10,000 residents of Fulton, Missouri, are preparing for a visit on Saturday from Baroness Thatcher who will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's "iron curtain" speech. Page 15



Jackie Gwennap, Liane Gordon and Emma Biggs celebrate spring in a Cornish daffodil field overlooking St Michaels Mount

BUSINESS

Lloyds: The market has devised a mortgage plan to prevent members from being forced to sell their homes to meet the cost of leaving the market. Page 23

Hanson: Powerhouse, the electrical retailer that has never made a profit, was sold to its management by Hanson, the conglomerate that acquired full control of the store group in November. Page 23

Tobacco: BAT has played down speculation that it might follow Hanson and British Gas and demerge its two core insurance and tobacco businesses. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 18.2 to 3758.9. Sterling was unchanged at 83.6 after a rise from \$1.5281 to \$1.5292 and a fall from DM2.2593 to DM2.2560. Page 26

SPORT

Rugby union: England prop Jason Leonard escaped punishment after being cited for foul play against Scotland. The disciplinary committee ruled that the evidence was inconclusive. Page 44

Cricket: Sri Lanka made a world record one-day international total of 398 against Kenya in the World Cup to finish their group games unbeaten. Page 44

Football: Changes to the criteria used in assessing work permit applications for footballers will be announced by the Department of Employment today. Page 40

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros returns to tournament play, in the Moroccan Open in Rabat, for the first time since the Ryder Cup last September. Page 46

ARTS

Big on wigs: Lavishly costumed and sumptuously filmed, *Restoration* runs out of steam only in the story department. Also reviewed is *La Cérémonie*, Claude Chabrol's treatment of a Ruth Rendell mystery, and Emir Kusturica's Balkan epic, *Underground*. Page 31

Twin celebration: Welsh National Opera has celebrated its 50th birthday by staging the double-bill with which it started: *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. Page 33

Pinball wizardry: *Tommy*, which has opened in the West End, is an action-filled tonic, says Benedict Nightingale. Page 32

Wintery sounds: Schubert's great song-cycle, *Die Winterreise*, is to be dramatised at the Lyric, Hammer-smith, next week. Page 33

FEATURES

Style of life: Leslie Kenton tells Mary Riddell her opinions on health, rejuvenation and chocolate, and her love of men. Page 17

Spellbinder: Valerie Grove talks to Simon Schama, author of *Landscapes and Memory*. Page 17

Dr Thomas: Stafford looks at bedwetting and bullying: big ears and longevity; and links between headaches and food. Page 16

Broken up: A daughter tells of her anger when she found her father was having an affair. Page 16

TRAVEL

Spring fever: Package holiday bookings have been down on 1995, but they are beginning to pick up. Page 37

BOOKS

Memories and memoirs: Bernard Levin on the precocious Gore Vidal: pornography as a secret weapon against the French ancien régime: a childhood memoir of Stalin's rule. Pages 34, 35

THE PAGES

The remedy consists of depriving the Hamas fundamentalists of the only ground on which they enjoy support: the ground of poverty. This must be the role of Europe. Economic aid must be given to the Palestinians to help them get by without the fundamentalists. — *La Libre Belgique*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Tony Parsons asks us to be sorry for the aristocracy. *Parsons on Class* (BBC2, 8pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond enjoys a Welsh valleys success story. Page 43

DEBATE

Hong Kong phooey

There remain strong reasons to doubt whether Chris Patten should, or could, ever lead his party. Page 19

Fish, fish, fish

Not for the first time, the European Court of Justice has stung Britain with a bad judgment. Page 19

National Nunn

Richard Eyre did a magnificent job for the nation and its theatre. Trevor Nunn is the best choice both to succeed him and to succeed for the National. Page 19

PETER RIDDELL

Kenneth Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind, Patrick Mayhew and Tony Newton are about to set a record for political longevity — passing the mark set by Lloyd George more than 70 years ago. In a few days, they will have served continuously in office for 16 years and 10 months — longer than anyone at a senior level since Palmerston's 19 years in the 1810s and 1820s. Page 18

MAGNUS LINKATER

What is it in the official mind that will take the pursuit of a health issue to this extreme? Health and safety has become such a concern in our public life that no official is prepared to risk the smallest error, while the law has become ever more pernickety. Page 18

JOHN BRYANT

It may sound crazy but, increasingly, referees and umpires are being urged to make use of technological back-up systems that would not be out of place in a sophisticated police force. Page 46

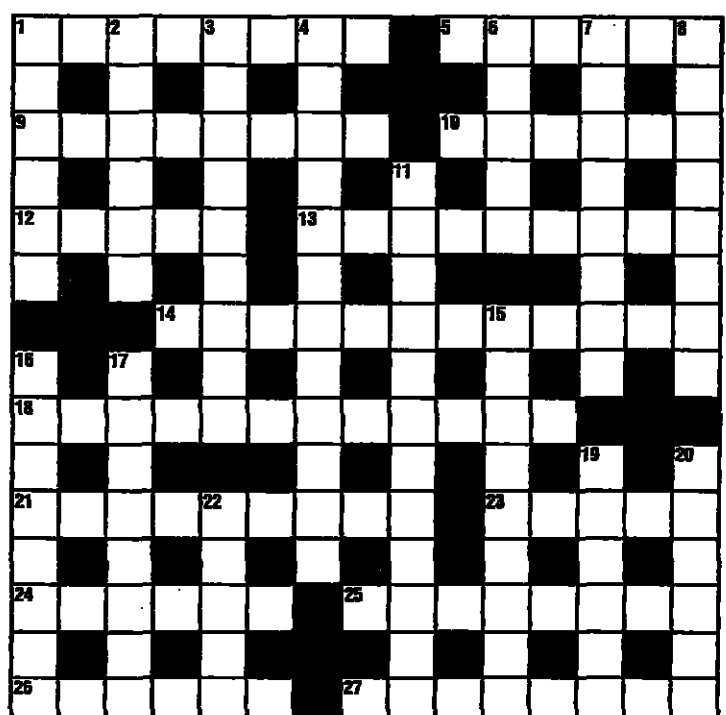
OBITUARIES

Lord Jay, President of the Board of Trade, 1964-67; Joyce Hicks, firefighter and golfer; Sir James Sutherland, scholar of 17th and 18th-century literature. Page 21

PETER

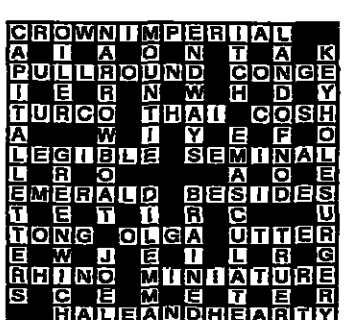
Chief Rabbi urges Islam to condemn bombers: Armed Forces homosexual ban: title for a new UK republic; economic growth in Ireland; juries. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,109



- ACROSS**
- Like a lozenge? Attention-seeking call to doctor — ring in free (8).
 - Fare badly in lead house (6).
 - Hearing about hair-style in special court (8).
 - Favour this sort of shed? (4-2).
 - Topping stuff for effect of cold (5).
 - Clipper that didn't touch the bottom? (5,4).
 - Savoy's unwelcome visitor — taxi arrives with luggage and East European (7,5).
 - Girl in island knocks down chaps who make retorts (5-7).
 - Italianate string course (9).
 - Check while ashore in the interior (5).
 - One coming out of dreadful regime? (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,108



- Keep volunteers in check (6).
- Birth requiring oxygen equipment at home (6).
- Kentuckians grow in low pot (9).
- Is a Brit icily disposed to uncertain temper? (12).
- Prepared, with a change of heart, for piping (5).
- Devotee is at a remade Disney movie (8).
- Minor burn producing stomach obstruction (8).
- Saw three pigs turning aside (5-7).
- Wellingtons, for example, twist out of shape on country roads (9).
- Type of porcelain that's produced in layers (8).
- Commonplace embargo on Italy organized (8).
- Rush to see ruins of Athens? (6).
- Storm damage (6).
- Hard decree hasn't finished off mob (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

THE WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0321 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/Surrey/Sussex	702
North/Wales & NW	703
West Wales & SW	704
West Midlands	705
West of Scotland	706
West of Ireland	707
West of France	708
West of Germany	709
West of Italy	710
West of Spain	711
West of Portugal	712
West of Greece	713
West of Turkey	714
West of Russia	715
West of Poland	716
West of Czech	717
West of Slovakia	718
West of Hungary	719
West of Romania	720
West of Bulgaria	721
West of Greece	722
West of Turkey	723
West of Russia	724
West of Poland	725
West of Czech	726
West of Slovakia	727
West of Hungary	728
West of Romania	729
West of Bulgaria	730

A ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/Surrey/Sussex	702
North/Wales & NW	703
West Wales & SW	704
West Midlands	705
West of Scotland	706
West of Ireland	707
West of France	708
West of Germany	709
West of Italy	710
West of Spain	711
West of Portugal	712
West of Greece	713
West of Turkey	714
West of Russia	715
West of Poland	716
West of Czech	717
West of Slovakia	718
West of Hungary	719
West of Romania	720
West of Bulgaria	721
West of Greece	722
West of Turkey	723
West of Russia	724
West of Poland	725
West of Czech	726
West of Slovakia	727
West of Hungary	728
West of Romania	729
West of Bulgaria	730

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Glasgow, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Dundee, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 0.6in; highest sunrise: Isle of Man, 7.0hr

THINK ABOUT IT...

In the time it takes to say "Why should I need Accident Insurance?" it could happen to me... it could. Then you'd be glad you had the money for expensive restoration.

WPA Western Provident Association FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

FORECAST

□ General: most of England and Wales will have a fairly cloudy day with patchy drizzle or sleet. Most of the sleet will be in hilly areas. South Wales and the South West will have some early brightness and the North West should remain quite dry. It will feel cold in the freshening northeasterly winds.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will generally be dry and reasonably bright with some sunshine for a time. Clouds will increase later with a little drizzle in parts of eastern Scotland. The best of the sunshine will be in northwest Scotland.

□ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N & NE England: rather cloudy with patchy rain or sleet. Wind northeasterly moderate, perhaps fresh. Cold. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

□ Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales: sunny intervals, becoming cloudy with patchy rain or sleet. Wind northeasterly moderate, perhaps fresh, becoming easterly. Cold. Max 6-8C (43-48F).

□ N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: mostly dry with a few bright spells. Wind northeasterly becoming easterly, light or moderate. Max 9C (48F).

□ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright at first, becoming cloudy with a little drizzle. Light and variable becoming moderate southeasterly. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

□ SW Highlands, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray, Fife, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: dry with sunny spells, more cloud later. Wind light or moderate, east to southeast. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

□ Outlook: quite cold and windy, with scattered wintry showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/Surrey/Sussex	702
North/Wales & NW	703
West Wales & SW	704
West Midlands	705
West of Scotland	706
West of Ireland	707
West of France	708
West of Germany	709
West of Italy	710
West of Spain	711
West of Portugal	712
West of Greece	713
West of Turkey	714
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West of Poland	716
West of Czech	717
West of Slovakia	718
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West of Romania	720
West of Bulgaria	721
West of Greece	722
West of Turkey	723
West of Russia	724
West of Poland	725
West of Czech	726
West of Slovakia	727
West of Hungary	728
West of Romania	729
West of Bulgaria	730

ABROAD

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/Surrey/Sussex	702
North/Wales & NW	703
West Wales & SW	704
West Midlands	705
West of Scotland	706
West of Ireland	707
West of France	708
West of Germany	709
West of Italy	710
West of Spain	711
West of Portugal	712
West of Greece	713
West of Turkey	714
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West of Greece	722
West of Turkey	723
West of Russia	724
West of Poland	725
West of Czech	726
West of Slovakia	727
West of Hungary	728
West of Romania	729
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HIGHER TIDES

Changes to chart below from noon: High I will drift east and build. Low J will quickly move eastwards and fill. Low K will move northwards and deepen.

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Greater London	701
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North/Wales & NW	703
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West of Ireland	7